

KLEINE HUMBOLDT GALERIE

Förderverein Kleine Humboldt Galerie e.V. | Ziegelstr. 13b | 10117 Berlin | info@kleinehumboldtgalerie.de

Bread and Circuses

Contemporary Art at Lichthof (atrium), Humboldt University of Berlin

Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

Opening on Tuesday, 12 November 2013, 7-10 p.m.

Duration: until 6 December 2013, Opening Hours Wed-Fri, 12-6 p.m.

Guided tours every Friday at 5 p.m.

Press Release

„Human beings only play where they are human in the full sense of the word and they are only completely human where they play.“ Friedrich Schiller

Playing games is an essential part of human life. While playing we are creative, carefree and imaginative. We forget our everyday worries and are intensively engaged in an activity that purpose seems to be the occupation itself.

But does playing games serve a higher purpose? The Dutch cultural scientist Johan Huizinga published his book *Homo Ludens* in 1938/39 and tried to prove, that our cultural systems, like politics, science and religion evolved from playful behavior. This behavior later consolidated through ritualization and institutionalization. Therefore the meaning of playing would exceed the mere purpose of entertainment and be an important factor for our cultural development.

The well-known saying *bread and circuses* describes the strategy of political and economic elites to buy the people with gifts and distract them with staged mega-events. The idiom originated from the satire *panem et circenses* by the Roman poet Juvenal. He satirizes the Roman public for letting themselves be bought by the senators and generals. They simply want to eat and be entertained. Do we live the modern version of this political marginalization in the thrill-seeking consumer society?

The exhibition of the Kleine Humboldt Gallery assembles contemporary art with objects of our visual culture to explore the relationship of our society to bread, games and circuses. One focus lies on the mass media and the virtual realities of computer games and the internet. The potentials of art and games are used to generate a space for creative ideas and food for thought.

Let the games begin!

Works from: Florian Albrecht-Schoeck, Pippin Barr, Harun Farocki, Asaf Koriat, Christin Lahr, Emanuel Oliviera Barata, Eddo Stern.

Curated by Milena Mercer

Special thanks to: Dr. Angelika Keune, Dagmar Oehler

The **Kleine Humboldt Galerie** is a collegiate initiative for the conception and execution of curated exhibitions at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

The Kleine Humboldt Galerie was founded in 1978 by colleagues of the computer center at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and artists from Berlin. After a long history and development we proudly present our 190. exhibition.

Further information at www.kleinehumboldtgalerie.de