

VITA Jan Bejšovec

Jan Bejšovec (*30.06.1975, Freiberg/Sa.) is a German artist whose work is dedicated to the textile arts and contains in addition to pictures, installations and objects. The main subject of his art revolves around political or historical issues. Jan Bejšovec lives and works in Berlin.

Youth

Jan Bejšovec was born in the GDR as the only child of parents of Bohemian descent. He went through a typical socialization and was a member of the Youth organisations. The collapse of the state in 1989 and the social changes in East Germany influenced him as well as his artistic work. The nearly complete destruction of the local textile industry and the disappearance of state symbols such as flags or uniforms generated an interest in textile forms of expression.

Academic and Professional Experiences

During the 1990s, dis- and reorientation defined Jan Bejšovec as well as the whole of East German society. He studied different degree programmes, including Political and Historical sciences. After 1997, he worked some years as journalist in the Turkish capital Ankara. From 2001 till 2007 he was employed by Corporate Communications in Munich.

Artistic Development

His professional work as a textile artist began after moving to Berlin in 2007 and the first exhibitions took place. The single show at ARD Hauptstadtstudio in 2011 and the group show 2012 at The Bundeswehr Military History Museum in Dresden with Anselm Kiefer and Michael Sailstorfer were his first successes.

Scandal

In 2014 a right-wing political group pressed criminal charges against Bejšovec for alleged sedition. The reason was the artwork "Total theoretician", which portrays the director of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial, Hubertus Knabe, making the gestures of both the Nazi and Communist salute. There was an attempt to ban the display of that artistic critique of Knabes revisionist misinterpretations of certain analogies between the totalitarian systems of Nazism and State socialism. The Public Prosecution Service of Berlin dismissed the case on the grounds of the protected freedom of arts.

Work

Under the label KONFLIKTSTOFF Bejšovec frequently deals with political and social themes. The graphic and sometimes provocative depiction contrasts deliberately with the textile medium. The use of authentic fabrics or materials like military camouflage or vintage clothes adds to the various motifs. Next to the many political statements in his works, Bejšovec refers to the old traditions of textile arts and crafts in stately, military, or propagandistic contexts. He also tries to call attention to relevant historical places through textile installations within the public space. Bejšovec is a modernist in the textile arts and combines traditional craft techniques with computer generated motifs influenced by street art or stencil-art. By the elaborate use of hand embroidery he creates a relief-like textile structure. To create photographically accurate templates for the embroidery, modern picture editing software is used. The embroidery itself is always done by hand, not by machines, thus increasing the authenticity of the picture.

Selected exhibitions

- 2021 Berlin, group show „War and Peace“, Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation
2021 Kranj, participation at „BIEN 2021Textile Art Biennial“
2021 Cluj, Gruppenausstellung group show of Kolonie Wedding „Berlin Contemporary Art in Romania“, Centrul de interes
2020 Berlin, solo show "feuds" Gallery LÄKEMÄKER
2020 Berlin, group show "this far and no further" Gallery Nord Berlin
2019 Novi Sad, group show of Kolonie Wedding „Contemporary art from Berlin“
2018 Berlin, solo show "What remains of life" at Salon Rohnstock
2018 Born auf dem Darß, group show „Artists of LÄKEMÄKER gallery"
2017 Berlin, group show "The bomb" at okk
2017 Hyvinkää, group show of Kolonie Wedding „Contemporary art from Berlin“
2017 Schwerin, Premiere of the movie "The forgotten army" by Signe Astrup
2016 Maribor, group show MUS 2016 ART METROPOLIS
2016 Ljubljana, group show „The Other Self -a textile perspective on exploring identity and belonging” at Galerija Alkatraz
2016 Kranj, two-part solo show "Cause for conflict" at artillery tower Škrlovec (Layer House)
2016 Kranj, Artist-in-residence at Layer House
2016 Chemnitz, group show "ausgezeichnet! most excellent!" at Moated Castle Klaffenbach
2015 Halle, group show "Art localisation - Love your hometown" Galerie temporaire
2015 Ljubljana, solo show „City of flags“ Exhibition at the Gallery Night-Window-Pešak
2015 Berlin, Co-Curator of the exhibition " 77□13 Political art and resistance in Turkey" at nGbK
2015 Ljubljana, Writer-in-residence at Galerija Alkatraz
2014 Miami, group show Art Miami with Gallery LÄKEMÄKER
2014 Berlin, solo show "metabole" Gallery LÄKEMÄKER
2014 Berlin, group show "A hundred years after the Great War" at okk
2014 Born auf dem Darß, group show „Artists of LÄKEMÄKER gallery"
2014 Berlin, solo show "By the beard of the prophet"
2013 Berlin, group show "24 hours" Konfliktstoff at Deutsche Bank art space Alte Münze Berlin
2013 Berlin, solo show "Humans / Rights" at okk
2013 Chemnitz, group show "2+2 / Phoenix Chemnitz - An exhibition at Peace Day"
2012 Berlin, group show "Kosmos as Presence, V5 Russian-German art convent" at InteriorDasein
2012 Berlin, curator of the group show "Vis-à-vis. Female portraits 1936-94" with works from Graphothek Berlin
2012 Dresden, group show "Conflict of pictures - Tanks and positions of contemporary art" at MHM Dresden with works of Anselm Kiefer, Frank Bölter, Michael Sailstorfer and Jan Bejšovec
2011 Berlin, group show "Turning Point" at ARD-Hauptstadtstudio
2011 Chemnitz, group show "Begehungen Nr. 8" - festival for young art
2011 Berlin, solo show "Konfliktstoff Germany" at ARD-Hauptstadtstudio