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Press Kit
Berlin, 25.5.23

Böhler & Orendt, Incantation, Zeichnung aus der Serie: The Spirit of the B-U-D or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2021
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Böhler & Orendt

The Sweet Certainty

26.5. – 14.8.23

**BERLINISCHE
GALERIE
MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART**



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Böhler & Orendt, Incantation, Zeichnung aus der Serie: "The Spirit of the B.U.D or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us", 2021, Courtesy Böhler & Orendt © Böhler & Orendt, 2023



Böhler & Orendt

The Sweet Certainty

26.5. – 14.8.23

Press conference: Thu 25.5.23, 11 am

Opening: Thu 25.5.23, 7 pm

Kids' Preview: Sun 11.6.23, 3-5 pm

Please send your accreditation for the press conference by 22.5. to: friederike.wode@bureau-n.de

The story of our furless species on Planet Earth is told here in two playful installations that fill the exhibition space. Matthias Böhler (*1981 Aachen) and Christian Orendt (*1980 Sighișoara, Romania) formed their artistic duo in 2008. They bring wit, irony and black humour to their account of human dealings: how we waste resources that took millions of years to evolve, how we have already destroyed more than 2.5 billion hectares of forest and exterminated over 60 per cent of terrestrial vertebrates.

In this exhibition a huge monkey-like creature serves as a multiple source of "raw materials" for busy squads of workers. At the heart of the second installation a spaceship resembling a lotus bud invites visitors to come inside and explore. A sequence of nine overpainted photocollages made in 2020 promises "The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us". Extinct animals perform a ghostly lament, summoning a mysterious power to rid the planet of this threat by wondrous means. The collages belong to the Berlinische

Galerie's collection and are being shown in the museum for the first time.

Press images

berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/boehler-orendt

Online tickets

bg.berlin/en/tickets

Social Media

#berlinischegalerie

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Berlinische Galerie

Berlin's Museum of Modern Art,

Photography and Architecture

Alte Jakobstraße 124–128

10969 Berlin

berlinischegalerie.de

Admission 10 €, concessions 6 €

(Prices may vary during temporary exhibitions)

Wed – Mon 10 am – 6 pm

Tue closed

Contact Press

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Bio- graphies

Matthias Böhler

- Born in Aachen in 1981
- 2006 – 2009: studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna, object sculpture, Prof. Manfred Pernice
- 2003 – 2009: studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Nuremberg, painting, Prof. Michael Munding, master class

Christian Orendt

- Born in Sighișoara, Romania, in 1980
- 2006 – 2008: studied at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst, Leipzig, printmaking/book design, Prof. Thomas M. Müller
- 2001 – 2005: studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Nuremberg, painting, Prof. Michael Munding, master class

Böhler & Orendt have operated as a duo since 2008. They live and work in Berlin.

Awards

- 2022
Stiftung Kunstfonds (Neustart Kultur)
- 2021
Initial Grant, Akademie der Künste
- 2020
Sonderförderprogramm Stiftung Kunstfonds (Böhler)
- 2019
Arbeitsstipendium Stiftung Kunstfonds (Orendt)

- 2016
USA-Stipendium des Freistaates Bayern;
Irish Museum of Modern Art – Residency Programme, Dublin, Ireland

- 2012
Debütant:innenpreis des Freistaates Bayern (Böhler)
- 2011
Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis
- 2006
Debütant:innenpreis des Freistaates Bayern (Orendt)

Collections (selected)

- Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- Neues Museum, Nuremberg, Germany
- Kunsthalle Göppingen, Germany
- Kunsthalle Schweinfurt, Germany
- Spreepark Art Space, Berlin, Germany

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023
The Sweet Certainty, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin
The Sonnenschein Rhapsodies, Kunst Haus Wien – Museum Hundertwasser, Vienna, Austria
- 2022
KWIRKI – Der Sendbote, KÖR Wien (art in public), Vienna, Austria
- 2021
KALA HET DIWAI oder Der Baum der Wissbegier, Bayerisches Landesamt für Statistik, (art in public), Fürth, Germany;
The Wild, The Furless and The Spirit of The B.U.D., Galerie Anita Beckers at 68projects, Berlin, Germany

- 2019
Give us, Dear, Neues Museum Nuremberg, Germany
- 2018
The Carrion Cheer, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC & Kunsthalle Göppingen, Germany
Epimetheus' Sample Kit, Kunsthalle Schweinfurt, Germany
Wäre Besserung NICHT die Lust der Welt ???!?!?, Anita Beckers Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany

- 2017
Fürchtet euch (nicht)!, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Christliche Kunst, Munich, Germany
Rest on the Escape from the Confrontation with the Fucked-up-ness of the Status Quo, (art in public), Rothenburg, Germany

- 2016
Mehrung 7, Museum of Human Achievement, Austin, TX, USA
- 2015
Tegen alle zorgen van de wereld (Against all the Cares of the World), Lokaal 01, Antwerp, Belgium

- 2014
Beitrag zur Lösung der Frage vom Ursprung unseres Glaubens an die Realität der Außenwelt und seinem Recht, Institut für moderne Kunst, Nuremberg, Germany

- 2013
A Mess Carol, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany (mit Felix Burger);
Mehrung 4, Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft – Kunstverein Nuremberg, Germany

Group Exhibitions

- 2023
The Carrion Cheer, Internationales figuren.theater.festival, Erlangen, Germany

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· 2022

False Clouds, National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo;

Beings & Creatures: On Damaged Earth, rotor, Graz, Austria

· 2021

Signs of the Future, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, Germany;

Ausstellung zum Hans Purrmann Preis, Kulturhof Flachsgasse, Speyer, Germany

· 2020

Wir Kapitalisten, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany;

Der Angriff der Gegenwart – Ausichten im Postwachstum, Universitätsgalerie im Heiligenkreuzer Hof, Vienna, Austria;

Merzbau-Garten, Kinderhook & Caracas, Berlin, Germany;

Was wenn...?, Zum Utopischen in Kunst, Architektur und Design, Neues Museum Nuremberg, Germany

· 2019

Licht, Luft und Scheisse, neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst & Botanisches Museum, Berlin, Germany;

Gemalte Diagramme, Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany;

The Outcome of the Pattern, Lothringer 13, Munich, Germany

· 2018

Haus der Sinnsuche – Gutes Leben durch Kultur, Kunstsaale, Berlin, Germany

· 2017

SEHT, da ist DER MENSCH, Kunstmuseum Magdeburg, Germany

· 2016

Landscape, Form and Psyche – Menin Road/Ypernstrasse, CC De Steiger/Stadhuis Menen, Belgium;

Wetransform – Art and Design on the Limits of Growth, Neues Museum Nuremberg, Germany

· 2015

More Than One Maker, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (B & O, G), Ireland

· 2014

Mehrung 6, Galerie Anita Beckers at Art Miami Curated Projects, Miami, FL, USA

· 2013

Die Wette, KW – Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany; Super Visions – Zeichnen und Sein, Museum Schloss Moyland, Germany

· 2012

Mehrung 2 – Bayerischer Staatsförderpreis, Galerie der Künstler, Munich, Germany;

Encyclotheek – Selected Objects from the Fukurô Collection, Kunsthaus Nuremberg, Germany

· 2010

Förderpreis Junge Kunst 2010, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany;

Jeunes Artistes, Galerie Schlassgoart, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

· 2009

Kunstfehler – Fehlerkunst, Halle 14, Leipzig und ACC Galerie, Weimar, Germany

Monography

Werner Meyer/Mark Sloan:

The Carrion Cheer, a Faunistic Tragedy, Verlag für moderne Kunst, Vienna, Austria

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Exhibition text

With wit, irony and black humour the artist duo Böhler & Orendt address the threat posed to Planet Earth by the behaviour of the human species. In the first installation an ape-like creature serves zealous squads of workers as a versatile source of “raw material”. In the next room a suite of large graphic works and a walk-in spaceship shaped like a lotus bud invite visitors to come inside and explore. The title of the story recounted here promises no less than “The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us”. The ghostly lament of extinct animals summons a mysterious power that rids the planet of this scourge by wondrous means.

The graphic suite dating from 2020 is part of the collection at the Berlinische Galerie. It is being exhibited in the museum for the first time. Matthias Böhler (*1981 Aachen) and Christian Orendt (*1980 Sighișoara, Romania) live in Berlin and have worked as a duo since 2008.

Böhler & Orendt

The Sweet Certainty

Give us, Dear, 2013

Black copied and shredded DIN A4 paper, newspaper, wallpaper paste, wood, hot glue, metal, rubber rings, ink, acrylic paint.

– **The Spirit of the B.U.D. or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2021**



Nine overpainted digital collages. Inkjetprint, ink, acrylic paint and pastels on watercolor paper. There is a short text accompanying each of the images. You will find the texts on the backside of this handout.

The series of images is part of the collection of the Berlinische Galerie. It is on view at the museum for the first time.

The Withered Visitants, 2019

Nine linden leaf-shaped brown textile objects, acrylic laquer and alcohol based ink on stage felt.

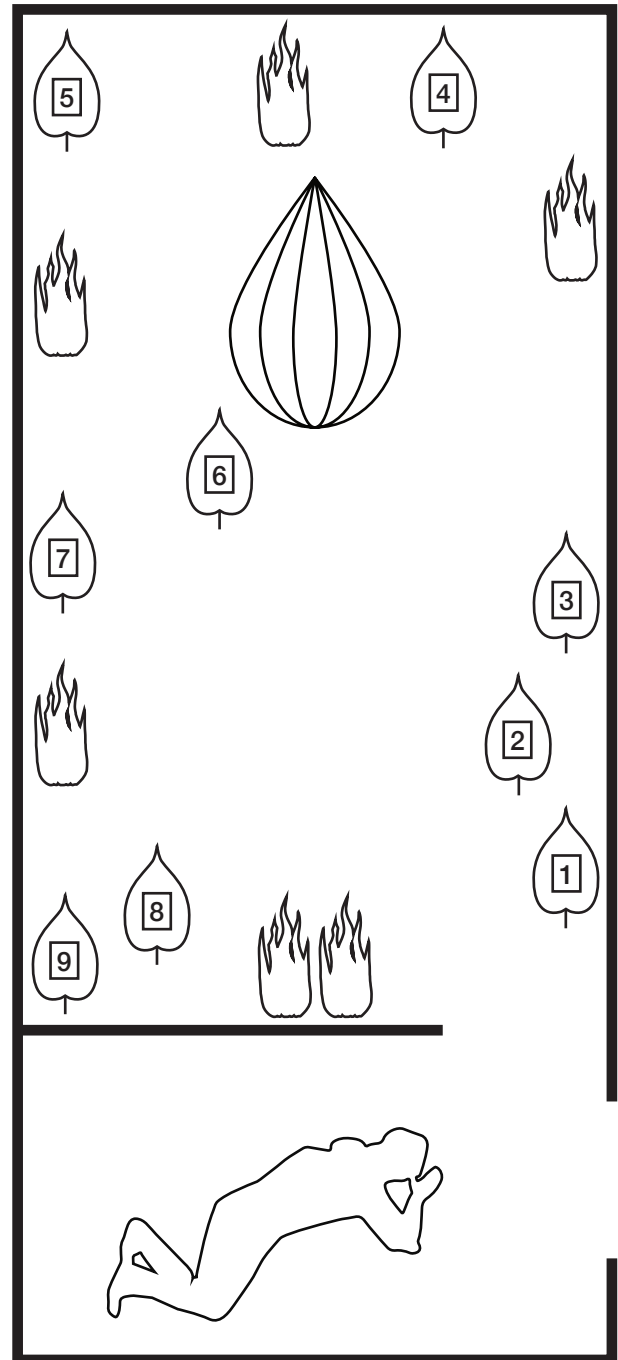
B.U.D. – A Treatise on the Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2020







Tent pavilion, silhouette image, five painted-over digital collages, video loop projection on fog, duration 11 min. The accessible pavilion, whose appearance is loosely based on a lotus bud, is a life-size representation of the spacecraft from the story in pictures  – .

The Lit Skit, 2023

Six videoloop projections, digital animation and fox sounds, duration 11 to 13 minutes.

Matthias Böhler (*1981 Aachen, Germany) and Christian Orendt (*1980 Sighişoara, Romania) live in Berlin and have been working together as a duo since 2008.



Credits:  Neues Museum Nürnberg, permanent loan from Elke Antonia Schlöter und Volker Koch /  – ,  Collection of Berlinische Galerie / ,  Courtesy of the artists

The Spirit of the **B.U.D.** or: The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds us

1. No one really knows why, but one fine day some of the monkeys inhabiting the tree of life since the beginning of time fell from its crown. Having been nothing but monkeys among other monkeys for thousands of years, the fallen ones experienced a puzzling transformation: Not only did they lose all their fur during the fall (except for some weird patches on their heads and between their legs), they also started behaving eminently un-animal-like.

2. Thus, just after touching the ground, the Furless began developing an odd common belief: It seemed to them that, like themselves, *terra*, the planet that had produced the tree of life (and all other trees), called for substantial changes! For starters – very fond of their own new nakedness – they thought of stripping the shaggy old celestial body of the vast untidy layers of wild plants and creatures that overgrew its surface. For this it came handy that fire had put itself at their service in the wake of their transformation.

3. Their altered mindset came along with a brisk and industrious way of handling things. In this way, Within only a few centuries, the Furless achieved impressive results: By 2021, they had erased 2,500.000.000 hectares of forests and over 60% of all vertebrae, but, at that point, they didn't yet see enough convincing reasons to stop. However, all the perished creatures' spirits were not resigned to drifting through the afterlife uselessly, each on their own, in eternal isolation.

4. Ascended from the remains of countless burned up biotic communities, they sought relief by joining in a many-voiced chant of grievance. Wondrously, it did not go unheard! The channeled energy of their collective yearning for a universal betterment brought about the unique manifestation of a very powerful preternatural super-being: *The Spirit of the Benevolent Utopization Device*.

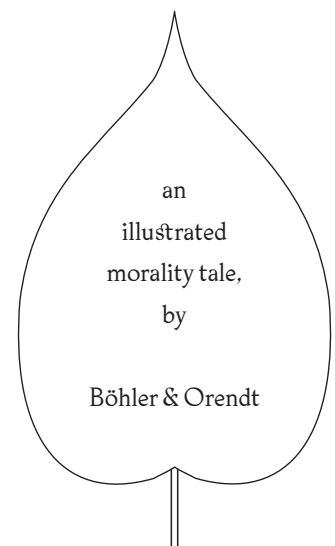
5. Entering the minds of the pitiful creatures who were still persevering on *terra*, *The Spirit* spoke like this to inspire them with its prophecy: "Eventually, in a time not far from now, the Furless will receive a call to the better beyond, equaling their removal from the terrestrial biosphere for good. This will happen through a magnificent redemptive vessel, the *Benevolent Utopization Device*, and of all living beings, it behooves you to build this conveyance!"

6. Elated by what they just learned, the newly enlightened ones set out to fulfill their world-changing duty. Each according to its ability, the animals strived to collect the resources needed for their formidable task. *Nelumbo nucifera*, the Asian Lotus, willingly contributed its best petals for the sublime device's hull.

7. The subsequent assembly of the parts was a jolly, playful happening. Birds and mammals, carnivores and herbivores, Rodentia and Chiroptera, teamed up for their colossal goal. The precognition of the upcoming new state of the world made their hearts jump in joy, and they danced and kept building in exaltation.

8. As soon as the construction work was finished, the structure started radiating a luring chant, utterly irresistible for the Furless. They blissfully flocked to its source, and – miracle of miracles – the vessel seemed to easily accommodate all of them! The wild creatures who had worked so hard to manufacture the *B.U.D.* – watching the scene from a safe distance – didn't trust their eyes: 7.754.847.014 of the Furless already found their way into it, and there were more to follow! Overwhelmed by their emotions, the animal beholders waved them goodbye.

9. After the very last of the Furless had entered the vessel, the gap in its hull closed. A bloodcurdling high-pitched howl shrilled through the night, followed by an incredibly bright flash of light. While all animals that were still nearby fled the site, the *B.U.D.* took off the ground, taking the Furless to a remote spot in the universe where they might persist self-sufficiently forevermore, kept from interfering with the fate of their former home planet ever again.



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Böhler & Orendt

The Sweet Certainty

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Böhler & Orendt, Incantation, Drawing from the series: The Spirit of the B-U-D or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2021 © Böhler & Orendt, 2023, Photo: Gerhard Haug, Böhler & Orendt 2021



Böhler & Orendt, Assembly, Drawing from the series: The Spirit of the B-U-D or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2021 © Böhler & Orendt, 2023, Photo: Gerhard Haug, Böhler & Orendt 2021



Böhler & Orendt, Gathering, Drawing from the series: The Spirit of the B-U-D or The Sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that Surrounds Us, 2021 © Böhler & Orendt, 2023, Photo: Gerhard Haug, Böhler & Orendt 2021



Böhler & Orendt, B.U.D. – A Treatise on the sweet Certainty of Deliverance from the Darkness that surrounds Us, 2020/2023 © Böhler & Orendt, Photo: Annette Kradisch, 2020



Böhler & Orendt, Give us, Dear, 2013 © Böhler & Orendt, 2013/2023, Collection of Neues Museum Nürnberg in cooperation with Elke Antonia Schloter and Volker Koch



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