



AA Bronson & Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur,
Folly (Lana's Boudoir), 2015, courtesy Esther Schipper, Berlin

AA Bronson's Garden of Earthly Delights

Featuring AA Bronson with Adrian Hermanides, Matthias Herrmann, Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur, Gareth Long, Ebe Oke, Chrysanne Stathacos and JX Williams

AA Bronson & Keith Boadwee

PLAID

19 September – 22 November 2015

The **Salzburger Kunstverein** is collaborating with the **Grazer Kunstverein** on a two-part project by **AA Bronson** (1946, Vancouver, Canada) that involves three concurrent exhibitions. Bronson is artist and curator, subject and object, in this hybrid project. All three exhibitions feature his artwork, collaborations with younger artists, performances, and artworks by friends. A pioneer of collaborative and queer visual art practice, he is a founding (and the only surviving) member of *General Idea* (1969-94).

For the Salzburger Kunstverein, AA Bronson presents “a meditation on spirituality, eroticism and the shadow,” each an aspect of the other in two separate exhibitions.

In the main gallery a full installation is comprised of several parts by AA Bronson and his collaborators. The audience circumambulates a garden of herbs, made up of the witch's beloved mugwort. This garden is dominated by an architectural folly in the form of a red and white striped tent, a kind of Medieval peep show. It was used for a performance by London performance artist Ebe Oke during the opening event. Other garden follies include antique Chinese pots, one garden fishbowl, with goldfish, named after the Tarot card *King of Cups*; and the other a giant pot on a very high stand. A family of Scandinavian deer appear to feed on the mugwort. The dark arts are represented by a sledge hammer, by New Orleans' infamous lesbian priestess, JX Williams. An enormous mandala of rose petals, constructed by the artist Chrysanne Stathacos, takes form during the opening and remains for the duration of the exhibition. These sculptural installations are framed by a soundscape of birdsong by Ebe Oke.

AA Bronson's Garden of Earthly Delights transforms the spaces of the Salzburger Kunstverein into an activated, queer tableaux of moving and still parts, presenting an arena of engagement, transgression and reflection. The exhibition is, in one regard, a queer adaptation of Hieronymus Bosch's triptych of the same name (circa 1500), here aesthetically married with Japan's famous Zen garden of Ryoan-ji (1499). Both the painted garden and the rock garden offer us a vision of the spiritual as a constructed universe. AA Bronson asks us to reconsider them in this exhibition, each alike a universe held within dramatized limits, like a gay bar or a drag club.

In the Kabinett gallery, AA Bronson and American artist Keith Boadwee collaborated on an homage to the anus. They have created a painting series on site titled PLAID, performative works created by squirting paint using their bodies. The paintings are simultaneously a nod to and simulacrum of classic modernist serial painting and Actionism both; they position the body, and especially—in Freudian terms—the anus, as the fountain of creation. AA Bronson says: "The asshole IS the revolution."

AA Bronson's Sacre du Printemps

26 September – 29 November 2015

Grazer Kunstverein (as part of the steirischer herbst 2015)

Featuring AA Bronson with Igshaan Adams, Ryan Brewer, Elijah Burgher, Nicolaus Chaffin, Michael Dudeck, K8 Hardy, Matthias Herrmann, Reima Hirvonen, Yeonjune Jung, Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur, Chrysanne Stathacos, Scott Treleaven, JX Williams.

At the Grazer Kunstverein, Stravinsky and Nijinsky's infamously scandalous ballet of 1913 gives name to this sequence of rites and sacrifices, overseen by sage elders, here given form in the person of AA Bronson himself. Similar themes – of spirit, sex and darkness – are knit into a labyrinth structure that takes over all of the gallery spaces. Each of the works tells a piece of a story, a history, and together they become a pagan romance, a series of rites, a sacrifice, and a gathering. AA Bronson, and many of the artists, will be present at the opening to tell these stories, to weave the history, or dance the dance.

AA Bronson, born 1946 in Vancouver, lives and works in Toronto and Berlin

Media sponsor for all three exhibitions: Hyperallergic.com

More information & photo material:

Michaela Lederer, Communication & curatorial assistance,

Contact: lederer@salzburger-kunstverein.at, +43 662 842294-15

Salzburger Kunstverein, Künstlerhaus, Hellbrunner Straße 3, 5020 Salzburg

www.salzburger-kunstverein.at

Hours exhibition: Tue-Sun 12-7 pm, Hours Café Cult: Mon-Fri 9 am – 11 pm

Installation views:

„AA Bronson's Garden of Earthly Delights“, Salzburger Kunstverein 2015,

photo © Andrea Rossetti, courtesy Esther Schipper, Berlin

Last image:

Installation view „AA Bronson & Keith Boadwee. PLAID“, Salzburger Kunstverein 2015,

photo © Andrea Rossetti, courtesy Esther Schipper, Berlin







