

Nikolaus Gansterer

“Building Worlds”

Moving in concentric circles, **Nikolaus Gansterer** approaches his subject matter.

Complex experimental arrangements lead him step by step to the proposed thematic.

Inquisitiveness drives him to use various scientific methods, and deploy them in his art works. The results he produces are not abstract numbers and data, like in science.

Nikolaus Gansterer “builds worlds.” Worlds that are perceivable by the senses, that move us emotionally, and pose questions rather than offer solutions. His experiments are “fields of dispute,” as he says. They are open for all kinds of interpretation and deal with sociopolitical as well as philosophical topics. They never center on the person per se, but instead, what he produces, what moves him. He meticulously gathers the necessary data, registers, records, maps, and uncovers hidden connections.

He uses diverse artistic media. Filigree drawings, lab-like installations, performances, and video recordings bring his skeins of ideas into focus in high aesthetic quality. His models symbolize the networking of things. Nothing can exist on its own, isolated.

It is first the connections that create sense. His works, too, are networked with one another. He brings parts of old projects into new ones, continues to develop them and finds results. Gansterer’s artistic investigations are borne by a scientific earnest and yet they allow for a great deal of background humor. Dead matter is animated when he “brings...” a still life “out of stillness,” distills it, and makes it fragrant. Plants become either “good” or “bad” depending on whether they are treated with the sound of Bach Cantatas or Death Metal.

In his artistic experiments, Nikolaus Gansterer exposes and decodes in a sensually perceptible way, the network structures immanent in things, their possible relations of signs and their references to the object examined.

Christiane Krejs

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