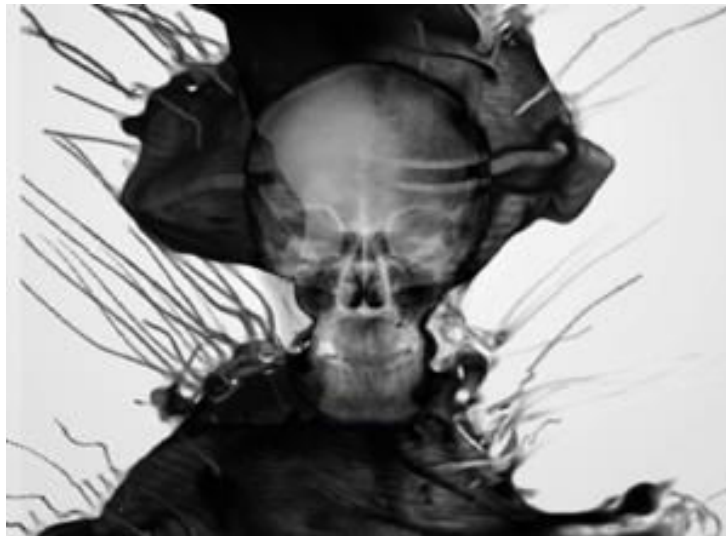


Uršula Berlot: Bodyscope

KIBELA / KIBLA Maribor

opening: Friday, September 7, 2012 at 8 p.m.



A great deal of Uršula Berlot's opus is marked by the exploration of intersections between science – mostly medicine, and art. Her works are often based on a recontextualization of visual results from medical diagnostic techniques, which are torn out of the medical context and often computer processed and transferred into the context of art. In her works, the author establishes a particular poetics, which spans across a highly estheticized technologism, stressed by an often monochromic impression and a typical tendency towards orderly symmetry, and a transparent, nearly ephemeral character of the works, whose materiality is often soothed by the play of light. Images of the body and the fragility of their incarnation in the gallery are an allusion to some of the elementary dichotomies that have decisively marked the history of art – the visual and the non-visual, the material and the spiritual, the transient and the eternal. But a new esthetic value and a connotation of transience are not the only things brought about by the change of context – it serves also to re-question the meaning of medical imagery in contemporary society.

Bodyscope is a spatial installation produced in a time when the technological eye of advanced display technologies in medicine has almost entirely replaced the direct sensual perception. Ever since the renaissance, looking inside the body has been a medical imperative – but to see means to understand, and understanding is seemingly only a step away from mastering and random design. The ideal of the western medicine took the form of a transparent, entirely cognitive body that cannot hide anything from the panoptic clinical eye. The tendency to comprehend and master human physiology is of course understandable and, in the context of isolated medical research, benign.

However, new technologies, which reach further inside the body and see more and more, are not just neutral tools closed behind hospital walls – by revealing ever new secrets about human physiology they actively form a public image of the body. It is thus a consequence of medicine's tendency for an increasingly accurate and explicit documentation of procedures, as well as the media's wish to portray body-related contents – these are appealing because of the voyeuristic connotations inherent to the sight of somebody else's body; and at the same time health and health-care are always hot political-economic issues. The voyeuristic appeal and a general fascination with health and healing, joined with extremely advanced technologies of "looking inside the body", form a fascinating spectacle that launched the imagery of medicine deep into the public sphere.

Bodyscope therefore addresses issues of the body, technology and identity at a time, when the inside of the body is everything but hidden, but it also questions the chase for a transparent body ideal: looking, whether in terms of eye-sight or tractography, will always miss something.

Žiga Dobnikar

Uršula Berlot: Bodyscope

Anatomical Transfigurations, 2012, x-ray films, a four work series

Vanitas – Self-portrait, 2012, video loop, sound: Scanner - Robin Rimbaud, special effects: Sunčana Kuljiš

Bodyscope, 2012, aluminum board, video loop

Fibertract Kaleidoscope, 2012, plexiglas, video loop

URŠULA BERLOT, born in 1973 in Ljubljana, studied painting at the Academy of fine arts and design in Ljubljana and at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Her master's degree in 2002 was followed by a PhD eight years later, both at the Academy of fine arts and design in Ljubljana, where she is currently working as assistant professor. She is a visual artist, lecturer and theorist, whose subtle and minimalist esthetics-bound works connect and problematize art and science.

She has won a number of awards: recognition award for important artistic achievements in Ljubljana (2008), the Schering Stiftung Grant and a one year residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2007, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation award in 2005. Major exhibitions: 3rd Quadrilateral Biennial: 'Media Art - Angles and Intersections', Rijeka (2009), Sci-Art, Galerija Enrico Astuni, Bologna (2009), Glow 08: Forum of Light in Art and Architecture, Eindhoven (2008), Transmediale 08: Conspire, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2008), Art'Fab: l'Art-la Femme-L'Europe, Saint-Tropez (2006).

The exhibition will be showing until September 29th 2012

September 7th – September 29th 2012

Opening: September 7th 2012 at 8pm

KiBela / KIBLA, Maribor, Slovenia

KiBela, space for art, is open on weekdays and Saturdays between 9am and 10pm, and closed on Sundays.

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