

valentinabonomoartecontemporanea

press release

“LEVITAZIONE”
FRANZ WEST AT PORTICO D'OTTAVIA

UNTIL 11 JULY 2003

Opening reception and performance 11 to 12 April at 19.00

On the 11th and 12th of April at 19.00 at Valentina Bonomo Arte Contemporanea, the personal show of the Austrian artist Franz West will be inaugurated. The show is entitled “**LEVITATION.**”

After his installation in Paris at the Chapelle des Petit Augustins, and his monumental show at the Gagosian Gallery in New York, Franz West presents his most recent works at the cultural association in Rome.

The artist, who has shown works in numerous prestigious exhibits and important international museums, has also participated in the XLIII Biennale di Venezia in 1988, Documenta IX in 1992 and Documenta X in 1997.

Franz West is considered one of the most influential artists of the last few decades.

Like his other shows, the project at Portico d'Ottavia exhibits an idea of unity that creates an artistic bond with perception. The work is made in diverse genres, from sculpture, to furniture, and even collage. In a few instances music also becomes the medium and an integral part of its representation.

The title “**LEVITATION**” alludes to a musical intervention that opens the show, in which the musician Freddy Jelinek, while lying on a bed designed by Franz West, performs music by Michael Mautner, in close contact with the work of the artist.

Franz West's concept of sculpture, that recovers noted artistic ideas of the '60s, incorporates elements of performance together with classic sculpture modeled in plaster and clay and frequently painted in vivid colors.

Through a metamorphosis of materials and paintings on furniture, the work does not lose its original identity, but acquires, in a particular relationship stabilized with the human body, a new form and vitality. West's fundamental intention is to connect two diverging notions in art, meaning that his works constantly move between two possibilities: that of the functional and autonomous object, and that of abstract art becoming an object of use.

“The perception of art is represented through points of pressure, developing when you are above...”

“...The seats and couches become instruments to appreciate the art.”

The show was created with the collaboration of the Austrian Forum of Culture.

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Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat 15,30-19,30 or by appointment