





CLEGG & GUTTMANN REJECTED

Curator: Christlan Mosar assisted by Charlotte Masse.

Alegory of government (Klaus Worelei), 2011, © Clegg & Guttman. Courtesy KOW Gallery, Berlin

1. CLEGG & GUTTMANN - REJECTED

Curator: Christian Mosar assisted by Charlotte Masse

22.10.2022 - 15.01.2023

The choice of individual portraits for this exhibition illustrates a very special category of portraits by Michael Clegg and Yair Martin Guttmann, dating the early 1980s: «rejected commissions». In the course of their career Clegg & Guttmann, who accept portrait commissions, have been confronted with several rejections of finished portraits by the client. These images thus remain the physical and intellectual property of the artists. The presentation of a choice of these rejected commissions illustrates a situation and an aspect of commissioned portraits that reveals the power dynamics and the aesthetic and individual hierarchies that regulate protocols and shooting sessions. Since they first started, Clegg & Guttmann have chosen a formal language that references certain periods and aesthetics in the history of art, notably the Dutch golden age and chiaroscuro. They conducted an in-depth study of bourgeois portraits, certain elements of which they transposed into their own portrait work.

Since they began in the 16th century, commissioned portraits have reflected the liberal and individualist ideology of the newly-emerging bourgeoisie. They reflect a «democratic» interest for those who are neither royal nor aristocratic. They assert that everyone wishes to be represented and that this is nothing to be ashamed of. They reflect the conviction that money enables people to be represented and there is no need to hide this fact or to seek excuses. The bankers and merchants who commissioned portraits considered attempts to prevent or disguise representations of individual persons on moral or religious grounds to be not only hypocritical but also an obstacle to the free relations between supply and demand that they defended. With the majority being painted on framed, and therefore moveable, canvases – a relatively recent invention – portraits also indicated that the models were «dynamic» people who had no intention of remaining in the same place for the rest of their lives.

Yair Martin Guttmann, 2022

The *Rejected* exhibition in the Kunschthal Esch presents a series of portraits of politicians, art collectors and gallerists. It thus reveals the spheres of power that are part of the structures of contemporary art. Through their portraits, Clegg & Guttmann question the poses, positions, gestures, décors and accessories that construct the language of power.

2. CLEGG & GUTTMANN

Michael Clegg and Yair Martin Guttmann were born in 1957 in Dublin and Jerusalem. They went to New York where they met at the School of Visual Arts in the class of Joseph Kosuth and have been working as an artist duo since 1980. In their photographs, installations, material collections, interviews and videos they explore and reinvent the genre of portraiture. They develop models for communication and collaboration that include and redefine the participation of the viewer

The artists are represented by:

Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman Innsbruck Gallery, Austria

www.galeriethoman.com

Nagel Draxler GmbH Gallery, Berlin

www.nagel-draxler.de

KOW Gallery, Berlin

www.kow-berlin.com

3. Framework program will be launched on konschthal.lu

FREE GUIDED TOURS OF THE EXHIBITION every saturday at 3pm

(no registration needed)

4. Press visuals & credits on request



Konschthal Esch
© Remi Villaggi



Allegory of Government (Klaus Wowereit), 2011
Courtesy Clegg & Guttman et Galerie KOW, Berlin



Six Bundesminister, 2000
Courtesy Clegg & Guttman



Curators of the Whitney Biennial, 1987
Courtesy Clegg & Guttmann
et Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin/Cologne/Munich



Two Executives 2006
Courtesy Clegg & Guttmann



Portrait of a Young Man, 2006
Courtesy Clegg & Guttmann
and Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman Innsbruck / Wien

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Free admission
WED 11AM - 6PM
THU 11AM - 8PM
FRI/SAT/SUN 11AM - 6PM
MON/TUE closed