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LAIBACH focus – A PHOTOGRAPHIC RETROSPECTIVE. Press release 01-12-2006 The Hague

Curated by the Photon Gallery, Slovenia
Produced by ArtiKraak

Venue
Stichting Kunstpassage/Ministry of Finance – Ground Floor – Korte Voorhout 7, Den Haag
Opening 8 December 2006 19:00hrs
9 December 2006 to 23 December 2006 – Thursday to Sunday 12:00 to 17:00hrs

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“Laibach’s discourse is one of absolute certainty and the stage performances are examples of absolutist totalitarian-style militancy. It is above all on stage that Laibach create a paradigm of impossible authority, driven by the iron logic of their concepts, manipulating audiences’ desires to submit to overpowering spectacle even while challenging them.”

Photon Catalogue text.

The LAIBACH focus Photographic Retrospective, reviews the past quarter of a century of documentation from the Slovenian rock band LAIBACH, exhibiting work by a number of Slovenian photographers including Vojko Flegar, Antonio Zivkovic, Bojan Salaj, Jose Suhadolnik and Jane Straws. These photographs offer a snap shot of a time, when the term extremist performance meant something to an audience who were far less de-sensitized than the audiences of today.

This comprehensive collection of photographs, videos and other visual documents chart the emersion of LAIBACH in 1980 to the present day, freezing the impossible spectacle of the quasi-totalitarian rallies generated by the bands performances. The images magnify for present day and for future audiences the sheer ferocity and power of the rock concert as totalitarian ritual. Reigniting the ideas of totalitarianism as a contemporary, rather than a historical force.

LAIBACH was formed shortly after the death of the Yugoslavian post-war leader Marshall Josip Broz Tito in 1980. Born out of a period of uncertainty and contradiction LAIBACH’S response to the power struggles between the different republics constituting Yugoslavia was a to present a totalitarian organization, whose fanaticism for authority far outstretched that of the state .

A full detailed history of LAIBACH with including photos can be purchased during the exhibition for a limited special offer of €5.00, along with CD’s and DVD’s. All artworks on display are for sale.

The LAIBACH focus exhibition has been curated by Photon Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia and has toured throughout Europe to Vienna, Zagreb, Belgrade, London, Germany and Slovenia.
See www.photon.si/ for more information.

LAIBACH focus was made possible through generous support from ArtiKraak, Stichting Kunstpassage/Ministry of Finance and Slovenian Embassy. The LAIBACH focus is part of the pilot project organized by ArtiKraak at The Ministry of finance. For more info check www.artikraak.org or email info@artikraak.org

ArtiKraak also invite you to join them on 22 and 23 December 2006 for two evenings of sonic experiments, art installations, happenings, performances, bands and a party. All details can be found at www.artikraak.org or email info@artikraak.org

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