

STADTKINO FILMVERLEIH AND THE PERFORMANCE AGENCY PRESENT
A FILM WITH DANIEL SPOERRI



THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT A FILM BY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ WITH DANIEL SPOERRI, OSKAR SALOMONOWITZ AND FEDERICO VECCHI
SCRIPT AND DIRECTION ANJA SALOMONOWITZ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ELEONORA CAMIZZI DRAMATURGE ROLAND ZAG CAMERA AND ORIGINAL SOUND MARTIN PUTZ
EDITING ELEONORA CAMIZZI, PETRA ZÖPNEK AEA MUSIC BERNHARD FLEISCHMANN SOUND DESIGN VERONIKA HLAWATSCH
MIX BERNHARD MAISCH TREMENS FILM TONSTUDIO GRADING BERNHARD SCHLICK GRAPHIC DESIGN PEACH WIEN PRESENTED BY THE PERFORMANCE AGENCY
INCLUDING THE SHORT FILM „RESURRECTION“ BY TONY MORGAN & DANIEL SPOERRI



Federal Chancellery
Republic of Austria

ERNST GOHNER
STIFTUNG



Stadtkino Filmverleih



THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

A FILM BY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ



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A film by Anja Salomonowitz

PRESS KIT

DISTRIBUTION/WORLD SALES

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CINEMA RELEASE IN AUSTRIA

PRESS SUPPORT
Versatile communication.
Valerie Besl
t: +43 1 522 4459 10
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valerie.besl@vielseitig.co.at
www.vielseitig.co.at

PRESS PICTURES

www.stadtkinowien.at/film/1136/

www.anjasalomonowitz.com





I LOOK LIKE I'M JUDGING LIFE AND DEATH, BUT I'M JUST RE-ARRANGING COOKING SPOONS."
Daniel Spoerri

SELECTED VOICES

"There are films as letters, films as songs, films as poems but one rarely hears about films as being gifts. Salomonowitz gifts us an understanding of how beautiful and necessary it can be to give a film as a present."
Patrick Holzapfel, Viennale, Vienna International Filmfestival

"With THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT, Anja Salomonowitz enters Daniel Spoerri's world and, without translating it, without simplifying it, succeeds in the perilous art of opening a hallway into its core. The dialogue between Spoerri's and Salomonowitz's creation works like a charm and the viewer, the third party in it, ends up with a sense of intimacy with both artists."
Déborah Laks, Researcher, CNRS Paris

"An inventive film, made of simplicity and profoundness."
Eva Sangiorgi, Viennale, Vienna International Filmfestival

"The rage to collect, the assemblages as memento mori, death: as Salomonowitz's film reflects, it reaches far beyond the usual artist documentary. She shows that Spoerri's accumulation of all the doll's heads, spoons and hearts is not an end in itself, but that they enter into a new cycle through him."
The Gap, Nina Schedlmayer



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The Swiss Daniel Spoerri, who now lives in Vienna, is one of the outstanding representatives of object art. Together with Jean Tinguely and Yves Klein, he founded the Nouveau Réalisme and is considered the inventor of Eat Art. Today he produces his assemblage paintings with objects he finds at flea markets: He breathes new life into things that others no longer need. Salomonowitz follows Spoerri's idea of existence as a constant cycle, linking aspects of her own life with it (from her late father to her son Oskar, who also interacts with Spoerri here) and touching on questions of Jewish identity.

Lars Penning, Viennale, Vienna International Filmfestival

Akin to a part song, Anja Salomonowitz's tender approach to artist Daniel Spoerri is arranged for several voices. The first is the artist himself, a fascinating man of multiple talents. The film mainly focuses on his work with objects, his so-called snare pictures. Those pictures are also the second voice as the film uses them to create an idea of resurrection. Cycles are renewed, life begins again. The third voice belongs to Salomonowitz's dead father and the act of mourning that loss. The fourth voice belongs to her son Oskar, who re-enacts statements by Spoerri. The fifth voice is connected to the pogrom in Romania during World War II. Spoerri, who comes from a Jewish family, lost his father in that time. Largely shot at Spoerri's workshop, the film connects all these voices and has them overlap, finding a beautiful way of illustrating both how to reach out and greater selfunderstanding. Resurrection, the film tells us, is possible when one finds a way to accept death. There are films as letters, films as songs, films as poems but one rarely hears about films as being gifts. Salomonowitz gifts us an understanding of how beautiful and necessary it can be to give a film as a present.

Patrick Holzapfel, Viennale, Vienna International Filmfestival



THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

A FILM BY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ



THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

A film by Anja Salomonowitz

(AT 2019, DCP, 72 Min, engl Subtitles)

Screenplay and Direction: Anja Salomonowitz

With: Daniel Spoerri, Oskar Salomonowitz und Federico Vecchi

Assistant director: Eleonora Camizzi

Dramaturgy: Roland Zag

Camera and Original Sound: Martin Putz

Editing: Eleonora Camizzi, Petra Zöpnek AEA

Music: Bernhard Fleischmann

Sound Design: Veronika Hlawatsch

Mix: Bernhard Maisch / Tremens Film Tonstudio

Grading: Bernhard Schlick

Graphic: Peach Wien

Producer: Anja Salomonowitz

Distribution: Stadtkino Distribution Company

Including the Shortfilm RESURRECTION by Tony Morgan and Daniel Spoerri, 1968/69

Supported by

Archivio Conz

Ernst Göhner Stiftung

Bundeskanzleramt Kunst und Kultur

Presented by The Performance Agency



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DIRECTORS STATEMENT

About my documentary strategy

When the kids were little, I used to go to museum exhibitions a lot. Much more than usual. It's quiet in the morning, they can sleep in a carrying bag and I, yes, I can enjoy the feeling that I still exist in the outside world, and not sink into baby madness between preparing meals. Many of these exhibitions feature these films, these "artist portraits", in front of which the babies sleep particularly well and I can rest my feet for a little while. It strikes me that these films are always made in the same way, have the same kind of framework and don't ask any structural questions. Like, why are most of these portraits of men or about the mechanisms of the art market? That's when the idea was born to recreate one of these films with people who don't have these prerequisites, like a child reciting the words of an artist, and attempt to deconstruct the way these films are made.

Daniel Spoerri is fascinated by the way life continues to change. Everything is an eternal river, becoming and passing, and death is always followed by rebirth. Death expresses itself in the most banal objects of our world, which carry so much heart in them as they tell the lives of people who have loved, lost and dined. I brought him the cooking spoons from my late father because he makes works with kitchen utensils. They then live on, mounted on a wall, Spoerri says about the objects he uses.

Daniel gave me an art work and I wanted to give him back a film. In the creation of this project, thoughts have involuntarily intertwined and the idea of having a child repeat his words has taken on new meaning. It has become a loving generational gesture. The idea of visualizing the cycle of life in this way took on new meaning that you can only experience when you watch the film.

Some text Oskar learned by heart because we gave it to him in advance to memorize, and some phrases he heard live on the set and repeated. If he forgot or twisted something, if the words changed through Oskar's oral interpretation, it was just a part of the bigger process.

With this process I try a simple but precise questioning of memory. The changes create a new understanding of the stories. Nuances become audible differences. The words transform, because in each repetition lies its very own transformation of what has been said, so the text travels through the child and transmutes. What is said becomes more ambiguous.

Even more so when Oskar repeats Daniel's story and the murder of his father. A 10-year-old recites the story of a 10-year-old who narrowly escapes death and loses his father on a train. How can we tell Holocaust stories today without "this feeling of repetition"? Through the process of re-re-actualization, the traditional root of the words experiences a new sensibility. Through the unexpected clash with the present, a reflexive, surprising reappraisal takes place.





THE HEART STORY

When my father died, I found a small, red porcelain heart in his apartment, next to the door. I took it with me and decided that that summer I'd throw it into the sea. A simple gesture. I would throw the heart into the sea, hand it over to the tides and set both the heart and myself free. I'm sure you know what that means, to throw something into the sea. To say goodbye.

That summer we did visit to the sea and I brought the heart in my suitcase with me. But then I got sick, and our pet died, and there was far too much wine, and when I returned to Vienna the heart was still in the suitcase. I had forgotten to throw it into the sea.

So I drove to the Danube outside of Vienna. I thought it might swim down the river to the Black Sea. I sat at the river bank and cried while I held the heart in my hand. But there were such big rocks along the bank and I thought, well, if I throw the heart in there now, then it might break and not end up at the Black Sea at all!

Later that year when Daniel came for dinner it suddenly dawned on me: That's it! I'll give the heart to him. He always collects junk like that for his work and I'll ask him if he can use it.

Daniel looked at me knowingly, nodded and dropped it into his jacket pocket. I secretly thought to myself, if he forgets, that's not bad either. If my heart ends up in one of those boxes at his studio, along with other porcelain hearts, I wouldn't mind.

But when I visited him a few days later, he opened the door and said: "You! The heart of your father. Look, I have made a work with it today. It's yours."

Now, my first thought was: "What? No! I wanted to get rid of it! Now I have it back again!" I was just overwhelmed by his sense of what really matters in life.

And then I thought, I will give him something back, but in my own way: a film.
This film.

Anja Salomonowitz



UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | BUCHAREST - AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM

BMEIA / sixpackfilm online-cinema

Bucharest - Austrian Cultural Forum

27 APRIL 2020 – 27 MAY 2020

STREAMING via <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/kf-bukarest/>

Online initiative by Sixpackfilm and Sonja Reiser (responsible for film at the Austrian Foreign Ministry)

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | MOSCOW - AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM

BMEIA / sixpackfilm online-cinema

Moscow - Austrian Cultural Forum

01 MAY 2020 - 01 JUNE 2020

STREAMING via <http://www.akfmo.org/de/events/>

Online initiative by Sixpackfilm and Sonja Reiser (responsible for film at the Austrian Foreign Ministry)

CCS CENTRE CULTUREL SUISSE. PARIS

A PICNIC BY AND WITH DANIEL SPOERRI | 6 PM

TO GIVE IS BEAUTIFUL, TO GIVE AND TAKE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL:

A PICNIC EXCHANGE

SUN, 6 SEPTEMBER 2020 | 6 PM

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING WITH FRENCH SUBTITLES | 8 PM

38 RUE DES FRANCS BOURGEOIS

75003 PARIS, FRANCE

<https://ccsparis.com/event/daniel-spoerri-anja-salomonowitz>



PAST EVENTS

MUMOK

MUSEUM MODERNER KUNST STIFTUNG LUDWIG WIEN
AN EVENING FOR DANIEL SPOERRI
TEAM PREVIEW | MARCH 28, 2019
www.mumok.at

ART BERLIN

FAIR FOR MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART
SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2019
SCREENING DATE | SEPTEMBER 14TH 2019 | 11:30 AM
www.berlinartweek.de

ARTECINEMA NAPLES

24th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FILMS ON CONTEMPORARY ART
OCTOBER 9 - 13, 2019
SCREENING DATE | FRIDAY OCTOBER 11TH 2019 | 6 PM
www.artecinema.com

PARIS INTERNATIONALE

OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2019
SCREENING DATE | OCTOBER 19TH 2019
www.parisinternationale.com

JIHLAVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 25 - 29
<http://www.ji-hlava.com>

VIENNALE'19

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SCREENING #01 | 02.11.2019 | 9 PM
STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS

SCREENING #02 | 05.11.2019 | 1:30 PM
METRO KINO

www.viennale.at

VIENNA ART WEEK

PREVIEW WITH A TALK AS A PART OF VIENNA ART WEEK
IN THE PRESENCE OF ANJA SALOMONOWITZ | MODERATION: DIRK STERMANN
IN COOPERATION WITH VIENNA ART WEEK

17.11.1911 AM
STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS
www.stadtkinowien.at



AUSTRIAN CINEMA PREMIERE

IN THE PRESENCE OF ANJA SALOMONOWITZ, DANIEL SPOERRI AND THE TEAM
SZEKELY GULASCH À LA SPOERRI
AFTERPARTY WITH LITTLE JOE'S GANG | DJ-SET & MERCH ICH BIN ETWAS SPOERRIG
IN COOPERATION WITH STADTKINO WIEN & THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN AUSTRIA
06.12.2019 | 7 PM
STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS
www.stadtkinowien.at

AN ART MATINEE

ALEXANDER HORWATH IN CONVERSATION WITH ANJA SALOMONOWITZ ON CINEMATIC ARTIST PORTRAITS
IN COOPERATION WITH DIE PRESSE
08.12.2019, 2 PM
STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS
www.stadtkinowien.at

RECHBAUERKINO

GERALD LAMPRECHT (CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY GRAZ) IN CONVERSATION WITH
FILMMAKER ANJA SALOMONOWITZ
AN EVENT BY STADTKINO FILMVERLEIH & CENTRUM FÜR JÜDISCHE STUDIEN DER UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ

9.12.2019, 6:30 PM
www.filmzentrum.com

ALLE SIND VON IRGENDWO HER

JULIA KALDORI (EDITOR IN CHIEF WINA) IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTIST DANIEL SPOERRI
AN EVENT BY STADTKINO FILMVERLEIH & WINA DAS JÜDISCHE STADTMAGAZIN
11.12.2019, 7.30 PM
STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS
www.stadtkinowien.at

KUNST UND FILM

CHRISTOPH KELLER (LANDESGALERIE NIEDERÖSTERREICH) IN CONVERSATION WITH FILMMAKER ANJA
SALOMONOWITZ
AN EVENT BY STADTKINO FILMVERLEIH UND KINO IM KESSELHAUS

12.12.2019, 6:30 PM
KINO IM KESSELHAUS
www.kinoimkesselhaus.at



PRESENTATION LIMITED EDITION

GALLERY URSULA KRINZINGER

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING 11 AM

DVD EDITION (NUMBER OF COPIES 50 PCS. SIGNED) | PRESENTATION 12:30 PM

SAT, 18 JANUARY 2020 | 11 AM

www.galerie-krinzinger.at

FILM + TALK

COOPERATION WITH NATUREHISTORICAL MUSEUM VIENNA

MARGIT BERNER (NHM) IN CONVERSATION WITH ANJA SALOMONOWITZ

THU, 23 JANUARY 2020 | 6:30 PM

STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS

<http://stadtkinowien.at/news/545/>

MILDRED LANE KEMPER ART MUSEUM

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXHIBITION:

MULTIPLIED: EDITION MAT AND THE TRANSFORMABLE WORK OF ART, 1959 -1965

FEBRUARY 7, 2020 - APRIL 19, 2020

SCREENING | SAT, 29 FEBRUARY 2020 | 5 PM

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

<https://www.kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu/events/films/13633>

LES ABATTOIRS MUSÉE

FRAC OCCITANIE TOULOUSE

THU, 19 MARCH 2020

76, ALLÉES CHARLES DE FITTE

TOULOUSE

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING WITH FRENCH SUBTITLES

<https://www.lesabattoirs.org/>

CANCELLED

ORF KULTURMONTAG

MON, 23 MARCH 2020 | 00 AM

ORF 2

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF DANIEL SPOERRI ON 27 MARCH

ORF BROADCAST IN THE ORIGINAL VERSION

7 DAYS AVAILABLE IN THE TVTHEK

tv.orf.at



KULTURNO INFORMATIVNI CENTAR | ARTERIA

TUE, 24 MARCH 2020

Preradovićeva 5

PRERADOVIĆEVA 5

Zagreb

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING WITH CROATIAN SUBTITLES

<http://www.kic.hr/>

CANCELLED

DIAGONALE 2020

WED, 25 MARCH 2020 | 11 AM

SCHUBERTKINO

MEHLPLATZ 2, 8010 GRAZ

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

AS PART OF DIAGONALE 2020 | 24.-29. MARCH, GRAZ

<https://www.diagonale.at>

CANCELLED

FRANZ GRABNER PREIS

THU, 26 MARCH 2020

NOMINATED IN THE CATEGORY CINEMA

<https://www.franzgrabnerpreis.at/>

STADTKINO WIEN

SUN, 29 MARCH 2020 | 4 PM

STADTKINO IM KÜNSTLERHAUS

AKADEMIESTRASSE 13, 1010 VIENNA

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | SCREENING IN ORIGINAL VERSION

www.stadtkinowien.at

CANCELLED

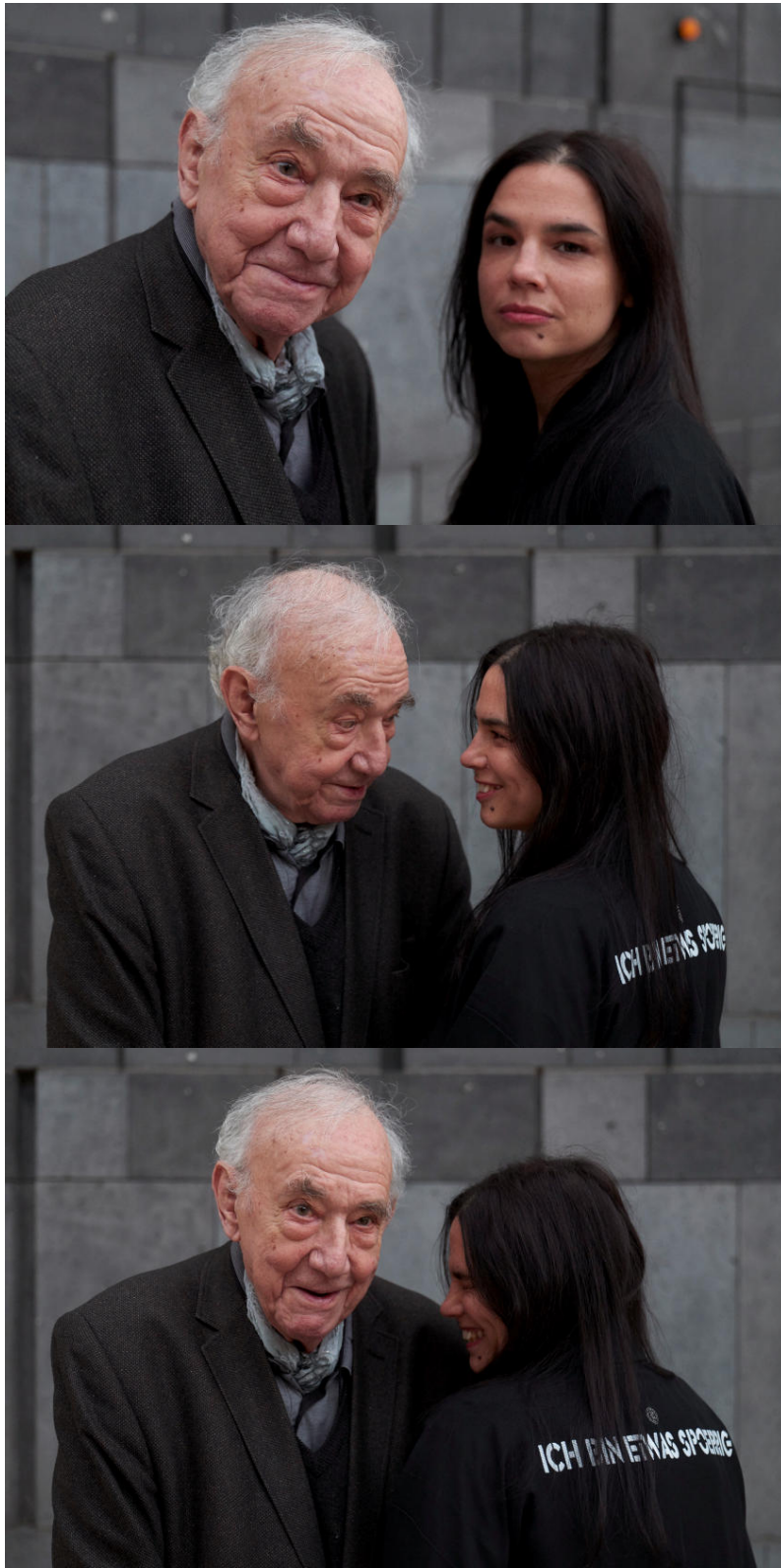


THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

A FILM BY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ



BIOGRAPHIES



©Robert Mewald



ANJA SALOMONOWITZ

For her films, Anja Salomonowitz developed a film language in which documentary, feature film and thesis blend. Real human experiences are condensed through artistic alienation. Her films received international recognition, numerous film awards and found their way into relevant literature on documentary films.

Anja Salomonowitz studied Film in Vienna and Berlin. She holds masterclasses on artistic documentary film at Universities (f.e. Aalto University Helsinki, Department for Film and Television) or at Filmfestivals (f.e. tutor at the Documentary Academy at Jihlava International Film Festival). Anja Salomonowitz has three sons. She was chairlady of the Austrian Documentary Film Alliance and chairlady of the Austrian Directors Association. Her hybrid documentary films are shot like feature films and follow a strict colour concept. All her films are explicitly political and always question the border and possibilities of documentary film making.



FILMOGRAPHY

SHORTFILMS

MACONDO 1999, 16 mm, S/W, 14 min.
CARMEN 2000 Beta SP, Farbe, 23 min.
GET TO ATTACK SPOTS AGAINST RACISM 2001, 35 mm, color, ca. 5 min.
PROJECTIONS OF A PROJECTIONIST IN A PORN CINEMA 2002, Digi-Beta, color, 14 min.
A MONUMENT FOR THE DEFEAT 2005, Video, Loop, color
CODENAME FIGARO, EINE MOZART MINUTE 2006, 35mm, 1 min., Farbe

DOCUMENTARIES

YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS 2003, 35mm, 52 min., color
2003 Audience Award, Vienna International Student Film Festival
2004 Prix Regards Neufs, Nyon, Visions du Réel

IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE 2007, HDV, 72 Min, color
2007 New Vision Best Director Award, Alba Film Festival
2007 Peace Film Award of the City of Osnabrück
2007 Award for the best image design, Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film
2007 Innovative Artistic Award, Mar del Plata, Argentina
2007 Special Mention, Cinéma du Réel, Paris
2007 Caligari Film Award, Berlinale
2006 Vienna Film Prize, Viennale Vienna International Film Festival

THE 727 DAYS WITHOUT KARAMO 2013, HD, 80 Min, color
Silver Eye Award 2013, Jihlava International Documentary Filmfestival

FICTION

SPAIN 2012, 35 mm, 102 Min., color

THEATRE

CAPITAL OF CULTURE KOSICE 2013, Performance
THE BOY HAS TO BE CIRCUMCISED 2016, Volkstheater Wien, Volx
2017 Dorothea Neff Prize for the Children's Ensemble



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OSKAR SALOMONOWITZ

A young Polish Jew emigrates to America and returns years later.

His mother asks him:

"Where's your beard gone, child?"

"Mama, nobody wears a beard in America."

"But the Shabbat, you observe it, don't you?"

"Mama. Business is business. In America they also work on Saturdays."

"And are you still eating kosher, my child?"

"Mama, I stopped that a long time ago!"

The old woman hesitates briefly. Then she asks her son:

"Just tell me one thing: Are you still circumcised?"

Oskar Salomonowitz, from "The boy has to be circumcised"



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DANIEL SPOERRI

Daniel Spoerri, who describes himself as a "henchman of chance", is active as an artist in various fields: Object assemblages, sculptures and cooking happenings characterize his extensive oeuvre.

Born in Galati/Romania in 1930, Spoerri escaped to Switzerland in 1942. He attended the Theatertanzschule Zurich and worked as a dancer and director. In 1960 Spoerri co-founded the Manifesto des Nouveaux Réalisme in Paris for a "new approach to the ability to perceive the real".

In the 1960s Spoerri conquered his own terrain with the so-called Tableaux pièges. Objects that were lying randomly on the table or in a drawer were held exactly in position and fixed forever, as in a photograph, i.e. the random moment is frozen three-dimensionally with the real objects and redefined as art.

Spoerri became world-famous with the "trap pictures" of his banquets, when he suddenly ends the most beautiful moment of a dinner with friends and announces: "The trap snaps shut! Nobody is allowed to move the fork or glass anymore. Each object is glued to the blackboard in exactly this position and hung on the wall as a work of art.

"An important motivation that, in my opinion, was not underlined enough was the fact that I had a moment of my life story attached to the wall."

Daniel Spoerri on the concept of trap pictures

The transformation of things determines the entire artistic oeuvre of Daniel Spoerri. Through a simple intervention, such as tilting from the horizontal to the vertical, Spoerri changes the levels of perception and reality. The metamorphoses of his own person also represent an important means of expression in the process of artistic creation. For example, he appears as a master of culinary art and presents Eat Art to the public: edible works by Spoerri and his artist friends Bernhard Luginbühl, Dieter Roth, Arman, César and Niki de Saint-Phalle were consumed at artfully staged banquets.

In his object and process art, the moment is only one aspect of a complete cycle that includes life and death, decay, and rebirth. For this reason, he has also set himself the task of questioning people's cooking, sense of taste and eating habits. He explores these in his art under the term Eat Art, which he founded in 1968 with the opening of the Restaurant Spoerri and the associated Eat Art Gallery in Düsseldorf.

Purchases of international museums and international retrospectives of his work consolidated Daniel Spoerri's position as a central figure in European post-war art.

Since Daniel Spoerri opened the artists' garden "Il Giardino di Daniel Spoerri" in Tuscany in 1997, he has increasingly turned his assemblages into bronze. Since 2007 Daniel Spoerri has rediscovered Vienna, where he held a guest professorship in the 1980s. In 2008 he contributed two properties in Hadersdorf am Kamp in Lower Austria to a charitable foundation called Eat Art & Ab Art, which is used as an eating place, event venue and exhibition venue.



