

Playstation Vienna

Step by step cover the ground of this city's eventful world

In this postmodernist age, the world has become a stage and tourists no longer find their pleasure in an authentic experience but in a variety of games that are made available to them. Today they are well aware that they act out the role of "being a tourist". It has been noted that images that arise in people's minds through films and other media also determine the way they behave, often as far as to belie existing social circumstances. "Playstation Vienna" tries to zoom in on situations where this "mechanism" becomes visible. And it does so not first and foremost by analytical means, but by a transformation of standard examples from within our leisure culture – a sightseeing tour, a board game and a zigzag-folded postcard.

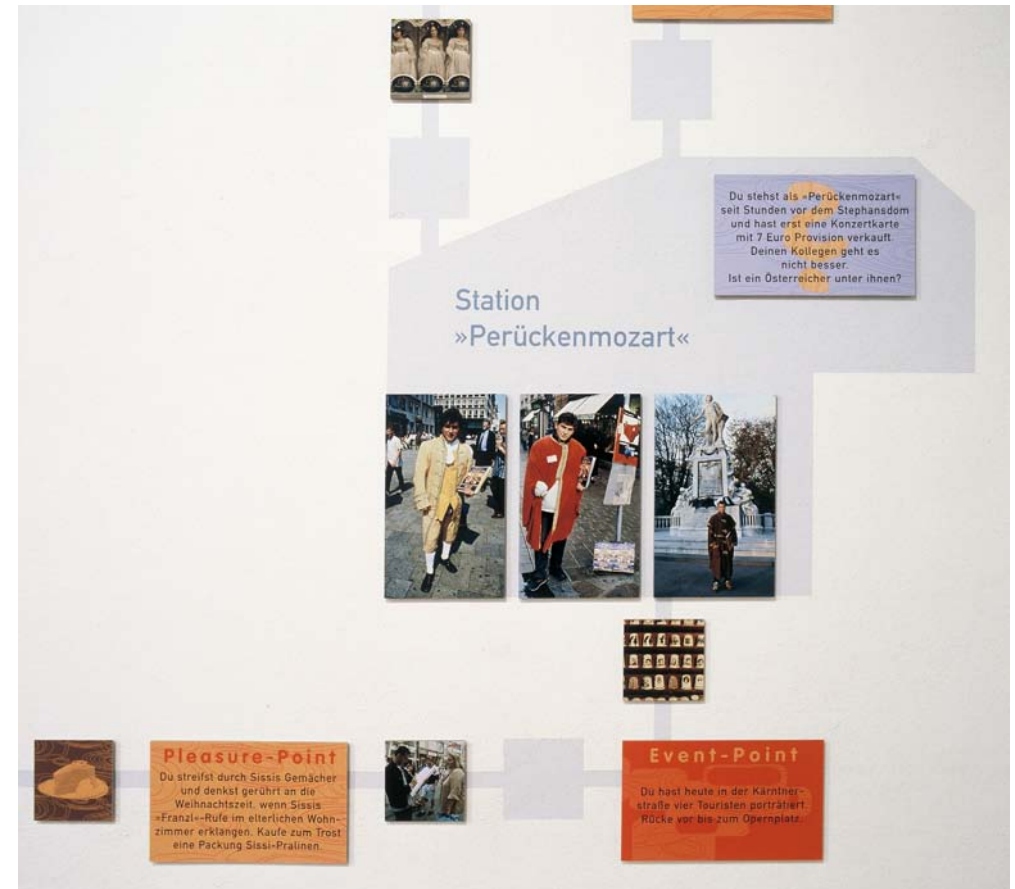
wall installation (5 x 9 m) in the style of a board game with photographs and text panels, sightseeing tours, video of the tours (50 min), zigzag-folded postcard 2002/03

site-seeing: Disneyfizierung der Städte?, Künstlerhaus Wien and public space, Vienna 2002

Play the Place – Beispiele den Raum, Kunstverein Wolfsburg (solo show), 2003

Tourist City. Die Neuerfindung des Ortes, Kulturzentrum Bremen, 2004

- sponsorship by the European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam 2002 and ZKM, Karlsruhe 2003 •



installation views Künstlerhaus Wien 2003:
wall installation (5 x 9 m) consisting of
wall painting, photographs and text panels >>

sightseeing tours with six stops:
The Third Man, Lipizzaner and Burghauptmann,
"Wig Mozart", Wien-Tourismus in the Ferris wheel,
Wien erwartet Sie (Agency Barci & Partner),
Hundertwasserhaus >>

“Playstation Vienna. Step by step cover the ground of this city’s eventful world” is about marketing a metropolis for tourist consumption. Vienna, with its historical old centre, offers a classic example for just such an investigation, since pictures of it, linked as they are to the city’s imperial background, can be recorded and permanently reproduced.

Part of the work carried out in the city centre adopts the form of a sightseeing tour as a performative praxis. However, instead of showing the city’s existing clichés, I place my focus on the conditions of tourism that are then studied with the help of the participants. This collage of different places, whose association is a compendium, presents a backstage look at the tourist machine and provides the basis for a discussion with the people responsible for shaping the image of the city of Vienna.

The other part of the work, a wall installation in the Künstlerhaus Vienna, visualises the theme of adapting a city to consumer-oriented visitors in the style of a board game. Likewise simplified in a step-by-step move across the game board, tourists and visitors are led via guide systems, special attractions and specific advertising strategies through the centres of our cities. The idea of steering a smooth course is taken up in ironic

form by the wall piece. The places at which the ideal clashes with the real are, however, not ignored here, but likewise translated into the grammar of a coherent game situation. The positions on the board reflect a series of significant tourist points within the system and bring them into diagrammatic association, whereby the six stations of the wall game are analogous to the tour of the city. The project is also linked to products of conventional tourism in the form of zigzag-folded postcards showing details of its game plan.

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P.L.



Die Hofburg würde gerne ein Frühstück von Sissi nachstellen. Die Historiker befürchten, der Geschichte nicht gerecht zu werden und sagen nein. Wie würdest du entscheiden?

Sowohl Reiter als auch Pferde in der Hofreitschule sind männlichen Geschlechts. Kannst du dir ein Mädchen unter den Wiener Sängerknaben vorstellen?

Station Lipizzaner und Burghauptmann

Pleasure-Point
Du streifst durch Sissis Gemächer und denkst gerührt an die Weihnachtszeit, wenn Sissis »Franzi«-Rufe im elterlichen Wohnzimmer erklingen. Kaufe zum Trost eine Packung Sissi-Pralinen.

Station Wien-Tourismus im Riesenrad

Im Riesenrad werden in »Before Sunrise« und in »Der Hauch des Todes« die ersten Küsse getauscht. »Der Dritte Mann« wirft seinen Jugendfreund nicht aus der Gondel. Hat eine Fahrt im Riesenrad einen harmonisierenden Effekt?

Wellness, Genießen und Shopping sind die aktuellen Tourismus-Trends. Wien ist die »Wahlflucht-Metropole«. Welches Motto schlägst du für das nächste Jahr vor?

Event-Point
Beim Überqueren des Michlerplatzes träumst du von Walt Disneys Film »Die Flucht der weißen Hengste«. Du träust in einen Pferdeapfel und landest abrupt wieder in der Realität.

