

About the Art of János Fodor

Momentary coincidence is called a conjunction. It might be accidental or intended, but in both cases the phrase denotes a phenomenon that displays a meaning surpassing itself.

János Fodor is an excellent observer. He comes and goes in the world, noticing minute details that are self-existent, but for him, these connect with other elements of reality seen at the same time and place. Simple facts lead to association, to seeking connections. Through this process, the selected thing becomes related to another selected thing, thus turning into a channel of meaning. Reality is full of minute details that can become meaningful if matched properly. One of the artists tasks might be to call attention to these relations, stating that our world is a surface filled with conjunctions waiting to be discovered.

The connecting link of Fodor's oeuvre, encompassing several media, is analytic, exploratory behaviour. Be it drawing, photography, object or video, the works display gestures that disclose the hermetic dimensions of the cognition of reality.

If there are model conditions to be found in his works, his photographs definitely conform to them. Surprising conjunctions, mostly found in urban environment, call attention to the interpretable accidentality. Street objects, posters, stickers and signs radiate humour and the happiness of recognition.

His objects may well be interpreted as projections of seeking connections: his installations and sculptures constructed of found objects display art historic and common associations pertaining to material culture. In his compilations, twentieth century concept- and pop-mentality meets the practice of artistic awareness.

Fodor's videos provide another aspect of his view of the world. Besides the short films expressing the aesthetic and philosophical beauty of accidental events, lately he has been recording sequences exploring the artistic aspects of movements and gestures. A pen leaving a trace on the wall, a geometric shape tapped by ballet shoes on the plaster or the sight of a piece of clothing lashing against the wall; the sight and sound of these convince the viewer in their simplicity of the value and richness of the tiniest details of reality.

A drawing is the most personal mark of the artist. In Fodor's case, his lines consequently depict and align simply drawn figures, which narrate general emotions and relations through their shape and movements, with the help of the ever so acknowledged world of cartoon culture.

The unity of this artistic activity arises exactly from its diverseness. The more sides of the same experience he sheds light on, the better he can render its beauty and lovability perceptible. Although Fodor is a man of words, he just cannot tell everything about his experiences. His means of communication beyond verbality is art, with the help of which he can direct focus on such things that most of us would fail to notice.

Zsolt Petrányi



Indoor, Outdoor exhibition view 2008

3 Consumer Objects 2008
mixed media



3 Corners 2008
plastic



Ping-pong, Golf & Tennis 2008
modelling clay





The Common Profile 2005
book on human races and cut-outs



Wallworks I. DVD *Dummy* video 2 min loop 2006



exhibition view , 2006 August, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

mixed media installation

drawing books, small- scale sculptures, photos and videos incl. documentations of performances

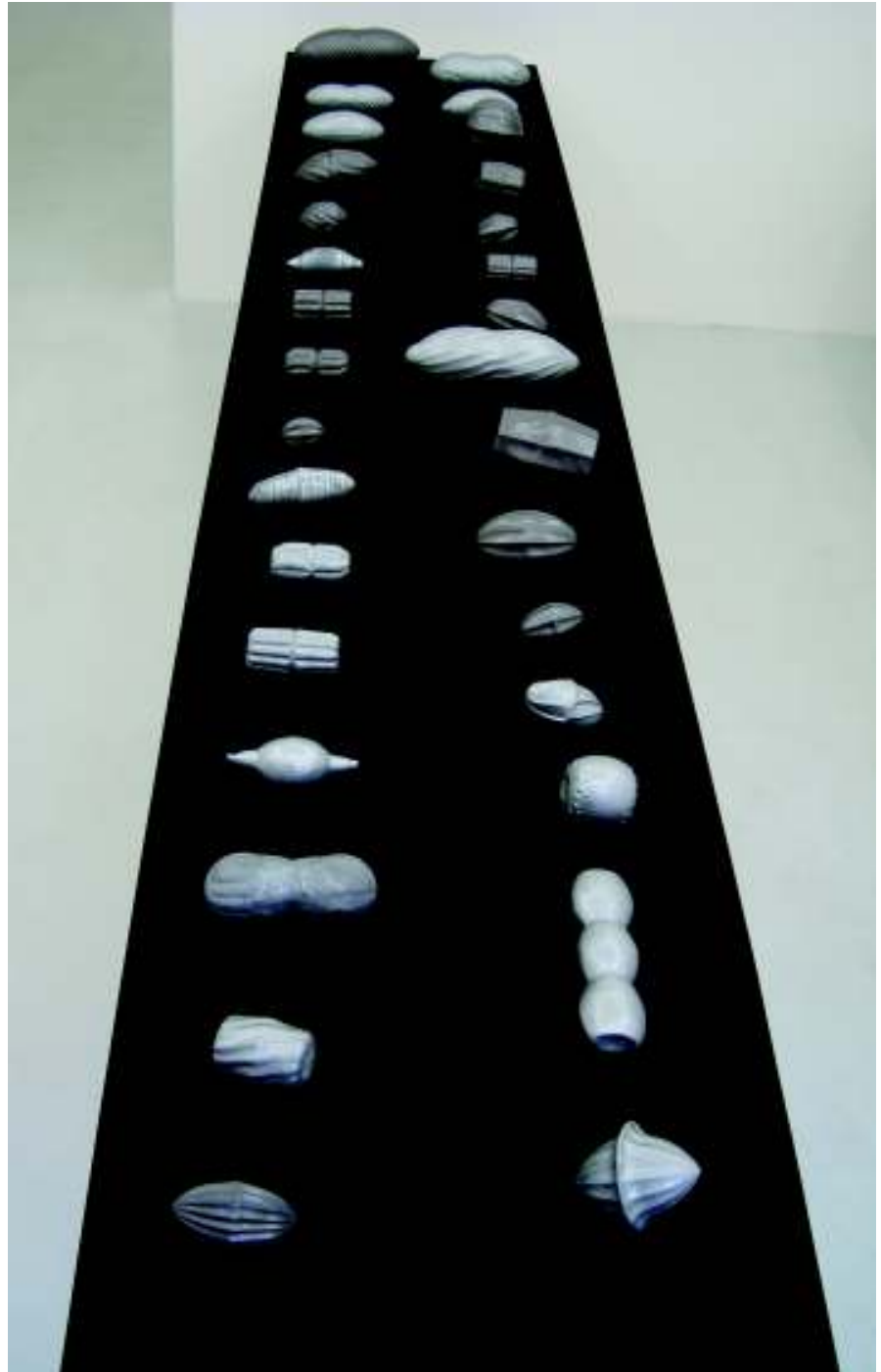


Bardo 2 drawings size 84x119 cm 2005.



*manipulated objects 2006
(metal, paint) various size*

Grenades 2007
installation
modelling clay
dimensions variable





trinity 2007
3 figures, modelling clay

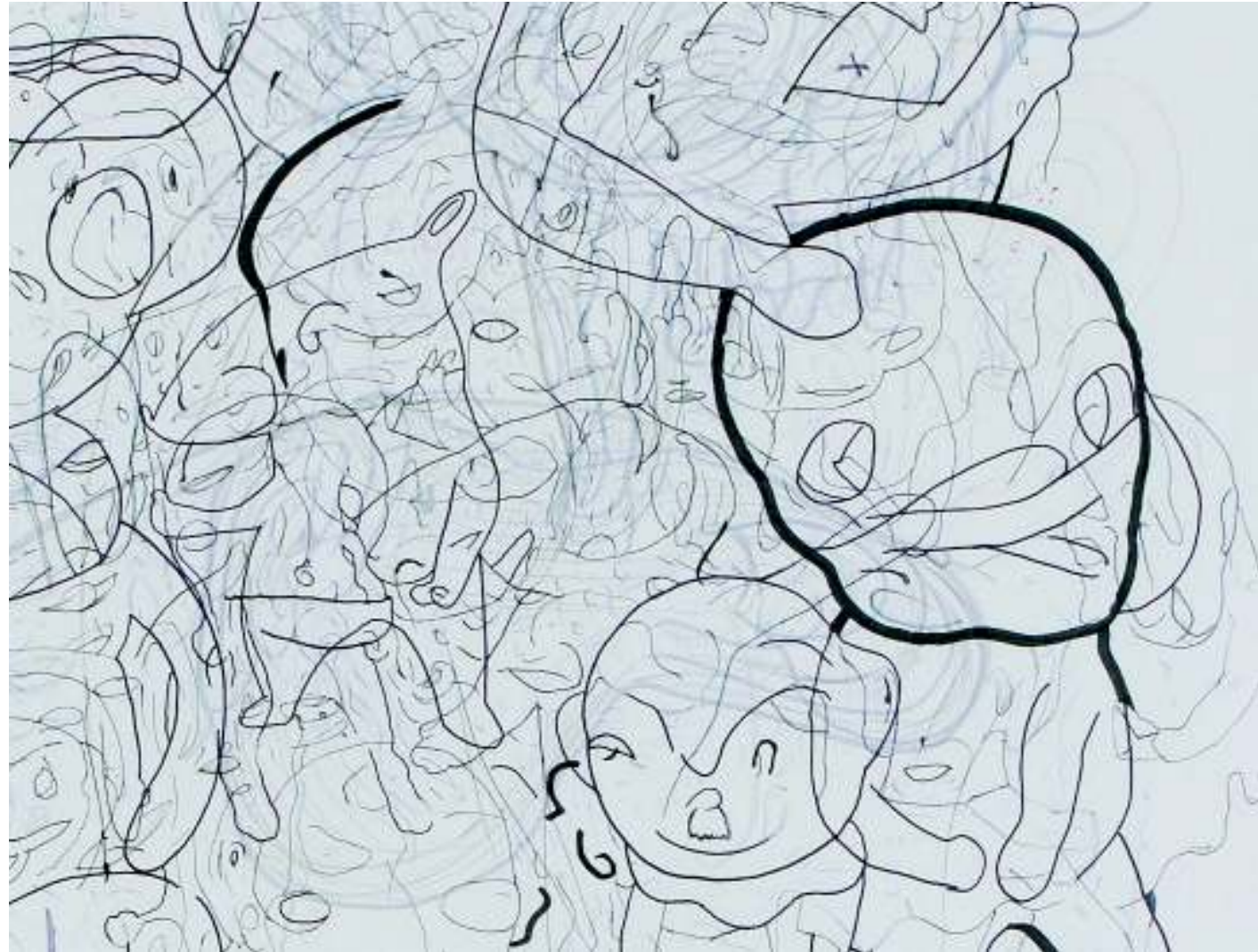
Stool 2004
black granite



Seven Sins
Installation with black plastic objects 100x13x10 cm 2007



Drawing 2006
(mixed technique on paper)
101x71cm



*Drawing 2006
(detail)*



Drawing 2006
(mixed technique on paper)
101x71cm



*Drawing 2006
(detail)*

János Fodor (1975)

2004 Graduated at the Intermedia Department, University of Fine Arts, Budapest

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2008 Lada Projekte, Berlin

2007 Kisterem, Budapest

2006 Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
fix Impex Gallery, Budapest

2004 hellp, Fészek Klub, Budapest

2003 '...' Polish Institute, Budapest**

2002 JAVA – series, Balázs Béla Stúdió, Budapest
(documentary films & events)*

„élek” – series, Knoll Gallery, Budapest (interviews and reports)*

2001 Investment, Bercsényi Galéria, Budapest
Futro public art project, Budapest*

1999 Instant, Stúdió Galéria, Budapest

Selected Group Exhibitions

2008 Indoor-Outdoor Kisterem, Budapest
Pampero Apartments, Berlin
Infernesque, Berlin

2007 Futurama or re-inventing tradition? CHB, Berlin ****
Imaginary Paradises, Foto Rio, Parc des Ruínas, Rio de Janeiro,

2006 Bucharest Biennale 2, Romania
Steiler Konter, Bregenzer Kunstverein, Bregenz
Urban Explorers' Festival, CBK, Dordrecht, Holland
Urban Contact Zone, projektgruppe, Hamburg
Repetition Kisterem, Budapest
Estranged Proximities Latitude 53, Edmonton, Canada
Generally Believed, ex-Mongolian Embassy, Berlin

2005 Gallery by Night 05, Studio Gallery, Budapest
Green Wind, public video projection, Budapest
Private Matter?, Kunsthalle, Budapest

2004 Poesis, Múcsarnok/Kunsthalle, Budapest
Last East European Show, Museum of Contemporary Art, Beograd, Serbia

Hidden Holocaust, Múcsarnok, Budapest
Unframed Landscapes, Dunaújváros – Zagreb – London

Fresh, Kogart Art Foundation, Budapest

Girls and Guns, Dorottya Gallery, Budapest***

Soap Opera, Kunsthalle, Budapest

Lost & Found, CBK, Dordrecht, Holland

2003 Transmissionen, Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart, Germany

2002 Hot Destination – Marginal Destiny, suburban shopping mall, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Budapest Box, Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

2001 Malice et Danube, Galerie de l'École des beaux arts, Marseille, France

2000 StaticNoise, Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros
Climate, Múcsarnok/Kunsthalle, Budapest

1999 RealArt, Trafó, Budapest

Aritmia 5, Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros

Prize

2002 Stúdió of Young Artists' Prize*

* with Tibor Horváth

** with Agnieszka Brzeżańska

*** with Róza El-Hassan