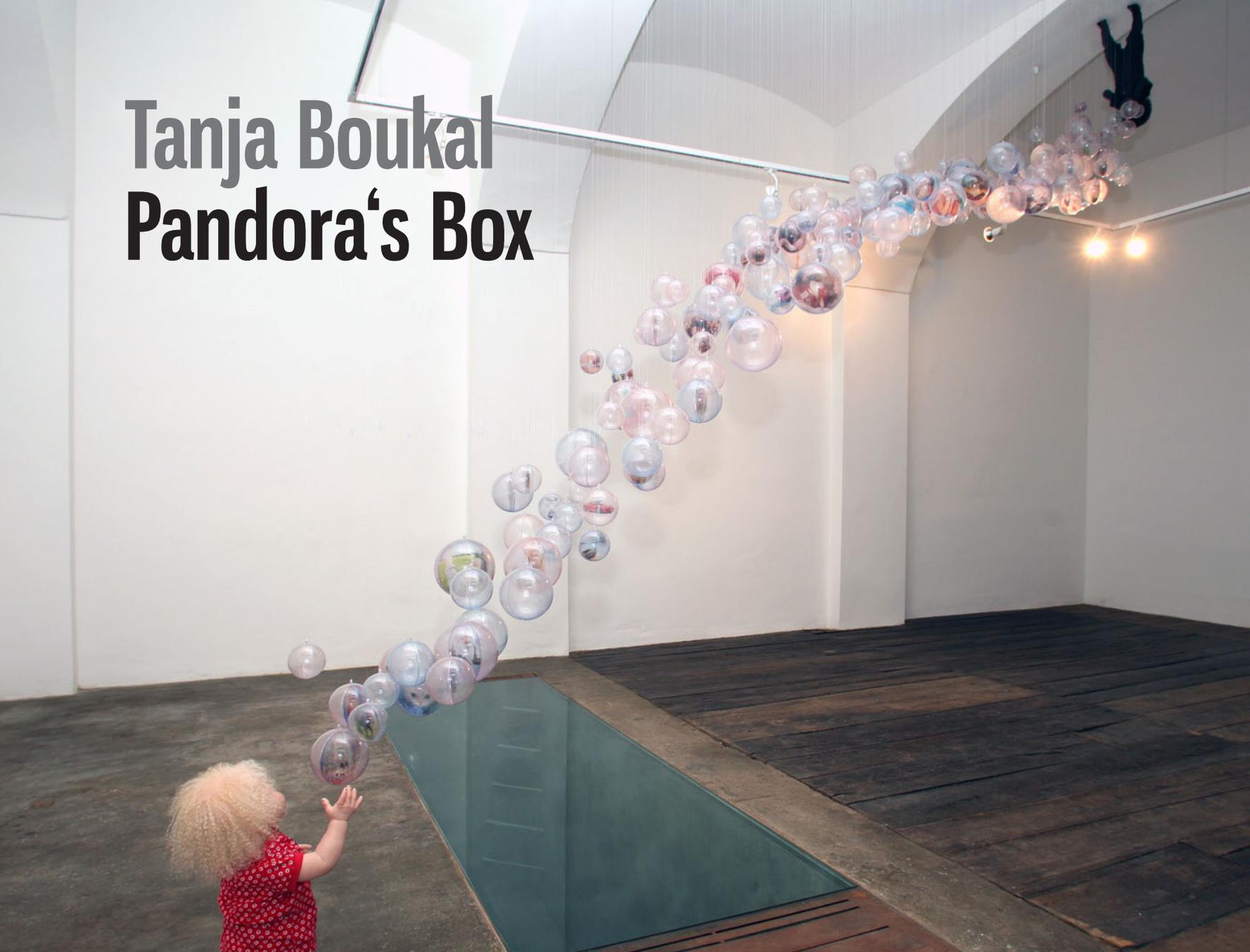


Tanja Boukal Pandora's Box



Tanja Boukal **Pandora's Box**

Introduced by
Monica Trigona

Tanja Boukal (Vienna, Austria, 1976) arrives in Italy with her first personal show for Alessandra Marena Project.

The art addicted probably remember the work that was presented at the Art Fair in Bologna last year.

With the irreverence and irony that distinguishes her work, at the time Tanja displayed the installation with the tiny heads of babies inside egg cartons and 21 giant banners with the images of apocalyptic places.

Exclusive to the space in Via della Rocca, the artist has designed a site specific installation that reflects the origin of evil in an ironic way, but not without bitterness.

It is no coincidence that her work is inspired by the legendary story of "Pandora's box" where all of the misfortunes poured into the world after its opening.

Hesiod in the "Works and Days," wrote that Zeus, father of all gods, had given the box to a woman, Pandora, with strict orders never to open it. As did Eve in the biblical myth, Pandora disobeyed these most specific instructions.

In fact the woman, curious as only the fairer sex can be, opened it and in only a few moments released all the ills of the world except hope that did not have time to make it out of the box.

Before then, mankind had lived free from tragedy, hardship and worries and was immortal like the gods.

In some interpretations of the myth, hope was seen as the worst of all potential evils because it was the equivalent of terrifying premonition. Thus preventing hope from escaping from the box, Pandora had actually saved the world.

Other interpretations suggest hope was able to get out of the vessel and brought misery everywhere.

Inspired by the first version of the myth, Boukal reflects on the possibility that evil in the world does not necessarily depend on the

presence of negativity that surrounds us (liberated from a hypothetical box), but perhaps all those hopes are not fulfilled (because hope is contained in a hypothetical box).

**To get what one hopes for with greed, means being happy?
Can having everything possibly generate resentment and avarice?**

Based on these questions, Boukal presents an installation where the protagonist is a child in the early stages of life who attempts to touch bubbles floating in the air filled with wishes.

Across the gallery is its mirror image, like an upside down shadow, but the child has before him bubbles, which contain also symbols of dreams common to all humanity.

In the middle of this path the bubbles coming from below and those that come from above intersect.

The result of this meeting is all that comes from the desire to make one's wishes come true and the fear of failure or failure itself.

The young Austrian artist is able to render current issues in an exemplary and original way, which regardless of the fact of being often discussed, still do not have sufficient prominence in our development. Living in a society made up of consumer mentality, people who do not make individual choices but follow the common desires and behaviors dictated mainly by TV and internet, and thus it becomes easy to run into "new" problems and failures caused by the inability to achieve certain status symbols.

It is no coincidence that Bauman in an essay titled "Modus Vivendi" speaks of Western man who is a victim of the market the homo economicus.

He is alone, without roots, but with the privilege of being satisfied by a false prosperity that lasts until the next inevitable need arises.²⁰¹⁰



The Artist at the site in Via della Rocca.





Tanja Boukal

Born in 1976 in Vienna, Austria, lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Selected solo shows

- 2011 **Pandora's box** at Alessandro Marena Project, Torino, Italy
- 2010 **Welcome to Paradise** at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2009 **Verlassen** at European Forum Alpbach, Alpbach
- 2008 **Where Your Feet Are Standing...**
at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2007 **The Necessity to Have Eyes at the Back of the Head**
at the Deutschvilla, Strobl
- 2005 **Selected Works** at Galerie Ephram, Mikulov, Czech Republic
- 2003 **self[?]secure** at Galerie Vernissage, Vienna
- 2001 **Superficial View** at Galerie Celeste, Vienna

Selected group shows

- 2011 **Next** at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2010 **BaseL_back II** at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2009 **BaseL_back** at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2008 **Qui vive?** Moscow International Biennale for Young Art,
Moscow, Russia
- 2006-7 **Industry, Paper, Art** at Papiermuseum, Steyermühl and
at Stadtmuseum, Deggendorf
- 2005 **Heima®t** (Homeland/Art) at Deutschvilla, Strobl am Wolfgangsee
- 2004 **emBODYment** at Rathaus, Mainz, Germany
- 2004 **Collection Piramidon** at Piramidon, Barcelona, Catalunya
- 2003 **all about: female sex** at Galerie Academia, Salzburg

- 2002 **Spazialità condivisa** (Divided Space) at Centro d'Arte Puccini,
Florence, Italy
- 2001-5 **Fotonoviembre**, 6th / 8th International Biennale of Photography,
Teneriffa, Canary Islands

Art fairs

- 2010 **Art.Fair 21** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Cologne, Germany
- 2010 **Munich Contempo** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Munich, Germany
- 2010 **Hot Art Fair** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Basel, Switzerland
- 2010 **Arte Fiera** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Bologna, Italy
- 2009 **Scope Basel** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Basel, Switzerland
- 2009 **Scope New York** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
New York, USA
- 2008 **Scope Miami** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Miami, USA
- 2008 **Art.Fair 21** represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels,
Cologne, Germany

Scholarships and Studio Projects

- 2003/04 Artist in Residence at **Centre d' Arte Contemporani Piramidon**,
Barcelona, Catalunya
- 2002 Scholarship of the **International Summer Academy for Fine Arts**,
Salzburg

Catalogues & Publications

- 2010 **Welcome to Paradise** for the exhibition at
Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2010 **Body of Work**, Tanja Boukals Work 2002–2009, Vienna
- 2008 **Works** re-edited Catalogue for the exhibition
at Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Vienna
- 2007 **Works** Catalogue for the exhibition at Deutschvilla, Strobl
- 2006 **Industry–Paper–Art** IAPMA
- 2005 **Heima®t** Tina Teufel, Salzburg
- 2005 **Fotonoviembre** 8th International Biennale of Photography,
Teneriffa, Canary Islands
- 2003 **all about: female sex** Galerie Academia, Salzburg
- 2001 **Fotonoviembre** 6th International Biennale of Photography,
Teneriffa, Canary Islands
- 2001 **Saison 2000/2001** Galerie im Alcatraz, Hallein, Austria

Tanja Boukal
Pandora's Box

2 lifesize infants, 200 bubbles

sitespecific installation
for **alessandroarena project**
via della rocca, torino, italia

2011

www.alessandromarenaproject.com
www.boukal.at