

# Alessandro Marena Project

contemporary art

presents

a site specific project by the artist:

## **Tanja Boukal** **“Pandoras box”**

Curated by Monica Trigona

**Vernissage: Thursday 10th February 2011**  
**From 18:00 to 21:00 the artist will be present.**

From the 11th February to the 31st March 2011

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 14.30 to 19.30 (by appointment)

**Alessandro Marena Project, via della Rocca 19, 10123 Torino**

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.

## **TANJA BOUKAL**

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

### ***Mostre personali selezionate / 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

### ***Mostre collettive selezionate / 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, Steyrermühl 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, 6<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> International Biennale of Photography, Teneriffa, Canary Islands

### ***Fiere d'arte / Art fairs***

- 2010 Art.Fair 21 represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Cologne, Germany
- 2010 Munich Contempo represented by Galerie Peithner-Lichtenfels, Munich, Germany
- 2010 Hor 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

### ***Borse di Studio e Progetti / Scholarships and Studio Projects***

- 2003–2004 Artist in Residence at Centre d' Arte Contemporani Piramidon, Barcelona, Catalunya
- 2002 Scholarship of the International Summer Academy for Fine Arts, Salzburg

### ***Cataloghi e pubblicazioni / 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 8<sup>th</sup> International Biennale of Photography, Teneriffa, Canary Islands
- 2003 all about: female sex Galerie Academia, Salzburg
- 2001 Fotonoviembre 6<sup>th</sup> International Biennale of Photography, Teneriffa, Canary Islands
- 2001 Saison 2000/2001 Galerie im Alcatraz, Hallein, Austria

[www.boukal.at](http://www.boukal.at)

[www.alessandromarenaproject.com](http://www.alessandromarenaproject.com)