

Jorinde Voigt / 2012

CONCEPT

"The Art of Being Happy"

Arthur Schopenhauer

(Multi-part installation of unique works) (Fig.1)

The 65 works of the series "The Art of Being Happy" are an investigation into the process of understanding. They emerged directly from the process of reading the book: "Arthur Schopenhauer. The Art of Being Happy. Presented in 50 Rules for Life. Edited by Franco Volpi".

My study is related to questions such as: What fields are conceived in our imagination?

What images are communicated? What inner images does the book evoke in me?

Every sheet of the series is based on a passage of text about one of the rules for life or on an extract from such a passage. (See appendix "Text Extracts" in attachment)

While reading, first of all I begin to underline things in the book and make pencil notes about the text on the drawing paper; as time passes, models of thought develop parallel to this, visualized in drawings on the same sheet of paper. Equivalent to the processes of understanding and reading, in part they crystalize into clear images, which are accentuated by means of gilding.

The golden areas are the climaxes of the entire process. The gilt area becomes variously coloured, reflected more or less towards and away from us through the axis: Fall of Light – Viewer's Standpoint.

Materializing and immaterializing fall into one.

The concluding stage of work is the selection of existent elements to arrange in a matrix, which exports what has emerged to date into a spatial and temporal context, thus making the work into a score.

The matrix comprises the following coordinates: "Internal Centre" (standing for one's "inner compass"), "External Centre" (standing for any type of external orientation point: social, ideological, sociological etc.), "Direction" of element x in relation to the internal and external centres (the "Direction" sets the event x on the axis between the internal and external centres); "Direction of Rotation" and "Speed of Rotation x Rotations/Day".

All the writing belonging to the matrix is realized in black ink.

Development process in brief:

1.) Selection of text

- 2.) Notes while reading
- 3.) Work to develop drawings showing models of thought parallel to reading
- 4.) Recording of crystalizing images in written notes, decisions regarding the placing of gilt
- 5.) Production of the intarsia: to complete the gilding, the area selected for gilding is cut out of the sheets along the drawn line, externally gilded using 24-karat gold leaf and reset into the original work in a similar way to the intarsia process.
- 6.) Creation of the score: embedding the existent information and images into the matrix.