

It's so wonderful to be a woman and an artist in the 21st century

Andrea Büttner

May 8th – June 8th, 2008

In her first exhibition in Sweden Andrea Büttner shows different variations on printmaking – woodcuts, photographic prints and pressed flowers.

The various themes include religion, closed systems, shame and aesthetic judgement. Andrea Büttner's work mirrors the artworld and the world of religious orders, both being closed systems with their own languages, rituals and beliefs.

The exhibition shows an image of dancing nuns on large woodcuts, the first medium of reproduction and a way of spreading religious imagery in the Middle Ages. The medium of printmaking is also present in the framed bunches of pressed flowers.

The photographic works in the exhibition are part of the open-ended project with a closed Carmelite convent in Notting Hill in West London. In the project, Andrea Büttner asks the sisters to document their production and display of "little works" - a sort of votive gifts in the shape of small aesthetic objects made for festive occasions. The little works are then presented in an exhibition inside the convent. The photographic works showed at Crystal Palace are documentation of the exhibition of the little works in the monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in November 2007.

Andrea Büttner often displays her works in a space painted brown. She calls this space a "shit space" or "Raumkörper" (spatial body). The brown space, that connotes shit, chocolate, mud, dirty protest, and the brown habit of the Franciscan order, is painted as far as Büttner's arms can reach and leaves traces of the underlying white cube.

Andrea Büttner lives and works in Frankfurt and London. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at Hollybush Gardens, London (2008), at Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe (2007), and at the Goethe Institute in Dublin (2007). Büttner's work was included in groupshows at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery and at Frankfurter Kunstverein/ Ursula Blickle Stiftung. In July 2008 Büttner will have a solo exhibition at the ICA in London in the series 'Nought to Sixty'. Other upcoming shows include the group show "Soft Shields of Pleasure", Den Frie, Copenhagen, May-June)