

AKSIOMA
Zavod za sodobne umetnosti
Ljubljana

Jakopičeva ulica 11
SI - 1000 Ljubljana

aksioma@aksioma.org
www.aksioma.org

Ljubljana, 18 March 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, presents:

Ztohoven

The Moral reform

Solo exhibition

aksioma.org/ztohoven

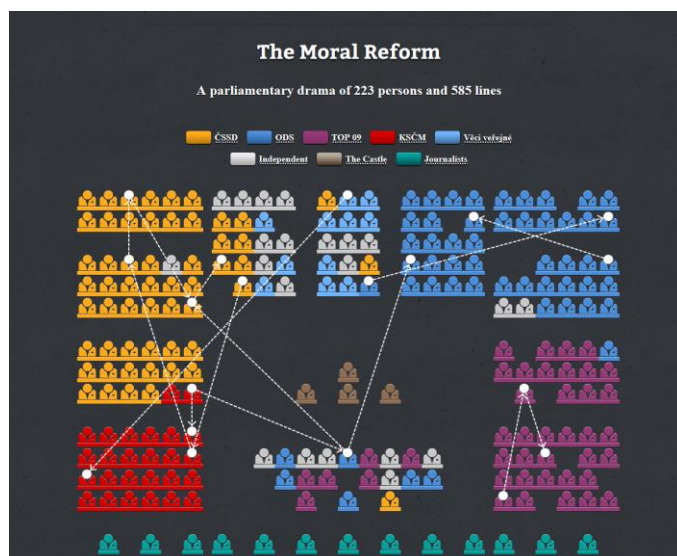
Aksioma | Project Space

Komenskega 18, Ljubljana

30 March – 22 April 2016

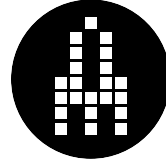
Opening hours: TUE-FRI 12 pm – 6 pm

Exhibition opening and artist talk: Wednesday, 30 March 2016 at 7 pm



Photos available for free download:

<http://www.aksioma.org/press/ztohoven.zip>



AKSIOMA

Zavod za sodobne umetnosti
Ljubljana

Ztohoven

The Moral reform

In June 2012, during the 40th Congress of the Czech parliament, 585 text messages were sent to different politicians. The politicians from various political parties were unknowingly “sending” text messages to one another about the need for a mysterious “Moral Reform” and apologizing to each other.

The messages called for better behavior, political decency and negotiation with less emphasis on grudges and prejudice. A typical message went something like this: President of Republic, Prof. Ing. Vaclav Klaus, CSc., is sending an SMS to JUDr. Vojtěch Filip, head of the Communist party of Czech and Moravia: “Your history, as well as mine, is full of acts of shame. Please, accept my invitation to today’s urgent meeting on Moral Reform.”

The happening's success was further amplified by the fact that the Parliament meeting was live broadcast in the Czech national TV. So, during the first tens of minutes, television audience looked at targeted deputies staring on their cells, twisting heads, searching for the authors of messages in order to confirm the sender. The performance – probably the first ever artistic performance taking place in the local parliament house – was later claimed by the famous Czech art movement Ztohoven, that published all the messages and the related information (who sent what to whom) on a specially designed webpage; and it was made technically possible by an hack into a mobile phone SMS gate.

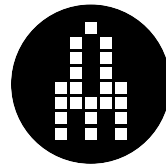
According to *Neural Magazine*, “The Ztohoven Parliament puppet show explored the notion of alternative futures being influenced by some unknown moral force. Revealing a new form of activist and “revolutionary” art, which is subversively opportunistic rather than openly confrontational. It uses extreme moral and religious discourse rather than critique, reflection or visions. It “reforms” reality by generating unexpected events that are closer to quantum physics and chaos theory experiments with butterfly wings than just simple provocations.”

The action blurred the distinction between real time TV coverage, theater and political performance and its impressive effects can be partly attributed to the fact that it leaves a lot of room for individual interpretation. Art is turning politics into a type of liminal experience with parallel and alternative universes and futures, almost extra-terrestrial interventions that resemble a TV show like *Fringe*.

The side programme will include screening of two films:

Wednesday, 6 April 2016 at 7 pm (Aksioma | Project Space): *Citizen K* is a film about the identity swap project (action/performance) during which 12 guerrilla artists from the Ztohoven collective lived for months under each other’s identity. The action aimed to draw the attention to the omnipresent Big-Brother-like control of the public by authorities. The artists applied for new identity cards with computer-altered photographs that combined features of two members of the group – the man who would use the card and the man in whose name it was issued. Subsequently they used the fake identity to get married, travel abroad and even vote in the Czech Republic’s general election in 2010.

Reservation needed, place your reservation at sonjagrdina@gmail.com.



AKSIOMA

Zavod za sodobne umetnosti
Ljubljana

Wednesday, 20 April 2016 at 7 pm (Aksioma | Project Space): *The Media Reality* is a film about Ztohoven's action where the members of the group hacked the Czech Public Television's transmitter used for automatic live broadcasting on June 17th 2007. They inserted an atomic explosion mushroom cloud in the quiet landscape of the Czech countryside in the Krkonoše mountains, which was witnessed by thousands of TV viewers. With this action they invaded the domain of media and television and exposed its lack of integrity and credibility, pointing out the discrepancies between the real world and that presented to us in the media. Does everything that our media offers on a daily basis through newspapers, television and the internet present the real truth or reality? It is this questioning mindset that the project is trying to instill in the general public, a sort of reminder to everyone. Ztohoven truly believe that independent television governed by public law is the kind of media which can handle such a thing even at the cost of its own self-indictment. The project stands as a kind of appeal for our future and a reminder to any media that the truth must be presented at any cost. Reservation needed, place your reservation at sonjagrdina@gmail.com.

Ztohoven is a Czech artist collective known for its artistically motivated pranks. The group consists of a core of around 20 regularly active artists, rising to around 100 when additional participants are called upon for a particular task. The group aims to use familiar tools and methods to challenge public perceptions of society. Members of the group are anonymous, and use pseudonyms when appearing or commenting in public. Many of the names used by the group's members are puns, some of which (e.g. Roman Tyc, Dan Gerous or Ana Ward) are chosen to work in English as well as Czech.

Production: Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, 2016

Artistic Director: Janez Janša
Producer: Marcela Okretič
Executive Producer: Sonja Grdina
Assistant: Katra Petriček
Public Relations: Urša Purkart
Technician: Valter Udovičič

Event is realized in the framework of **Masters & Servers**, a joint project by Aksioma (SI), Drugo more (HR), AND (UK), Link Art Center (IT) and d-i-n-a / The Influencers (ES).



Supported by: the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ljubljana.



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA KULTURO



Mestna občina
Ljubljana

Contact:

Urša Purkart, 00386-(0)31 568 737, aksioma.org@gmail.com

Aksioma | Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana

Jakopičeva 11, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

www.aksioma.org