Is it time to stop caring?

Jochen Gerz
The Berkeley Oracle: Questions Unanswered
http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/exhibits/oracle

The Berkeley Oracle (detail), 1997-98
Visitors to the web site are asked to submit their question to the Oracle and may then view the questions that others throughout the world have submitted. The Oracle is available in English, French, German, and Spanish versions. Recalling the paradoxically responsive Greek Oracle at Delphi, which gave answers in the form of riddles, Gerz’s Oracle gives no answers at all.

The critic Bojana Pejic has written of Gerz:

In Gerz’s life and work he opposes [the] omnipresent humanist subject. To do so, he restrains himself from imposing any kind of conviction, message, solution, ready-made meaning or “truth.” His works are ‘dispositions’ in which the viewer finds only the solutions that people can work out for themselves—prominent among these, of course, being the practice of doubt.

For the gallery component of The Berkeley Oracle Gerz has selected forty of the submitted questions, producing them as text panels, and installing them throughout the museum’s galleries and public areas. Both the internet and the gallery components will run through May 31, 1998.

Gerz was born in Berlin in 1940. He has lived in Paris since 1966 and stays frequently in British Columbia, Canada.

Exhibitions

Selected solo exhibitions:
Galleria Rinascita, Modena, Italy, 1968; Museum Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, West Germany, 1974; German Pavilion, Venice Biennale, 1976; Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hanover, West Germany; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Great Britain, 1979; Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Center, Banff, Canada, 1984; Musee des Beaux-Arts de Calais, Calais, France, 1986 (catalog); Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany, 1988 (traveled); Richard L. Nelson Gallery, Davis, California, 1992; Centre Saito Bronfman, Montreal, 1993 (traveled, catalog); Cornerhouse Gallery, Manchester, Great Britain, 1993; Galerie Lohrl, Monchengladbach, Germany, 1994; Neuberger Art Museum, Purchase, NY, 1994 (traveled, catalog); Newport Harbour Museum, Newport Beach, CA, 1994; C.R.G., New York, 1996

Selected group exhibitions:

The Berkeley Oracle is a collaboration among the UC Berkeley Art Museum; the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung, Karlsruhe; the Museum für Neue Kunst, Karlsruhe; and Ada Web, New York.

MATRIX exhibitions are supported in part by Mrs. Paul L. Wattis, the California Arts Council, the UAM Council MATRIX Endowment, and two anonymous donors. This exhibition has received additional support from the Goethe Institute, San Francisco.