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Fondation Beyeler's booth A5 at Art Basel Miami Beach with installation by Rirkrit Tiravanija *untitled 2018 (all hope abandon)*



“Did you come here to ask for forgiveness?” – Loosely inspired by Dante’s “Commedia” and the situations and performances that framed the Fondation Beyeler’s Summer Night’s Gala in September, Rirkrit Tiravanija transforms the Beyeler booth at Art Basel Miami Beach into an ambiguous gateway to the heaven or hell of the art fair and into a space for confession, communion, and reflection, envisioning the fair as mass by alluding to the German word “*Messe*”, which as a homonym means both “fair” and “mass”. “All hope abandon, ye who enter here.”

Quoting from Dante’s magnum opus “The Divine Comedy” from 1472, Rirkrit Tiravanija enwraps the walls of the Fondation Beyeler’s booth just underneath the ceiling with the authoritative words:

**Through me you pass into the city of woe:
Through me you pass into eternal pain:
Through me among the people lost for aye.
Justice the founder of my fabric moved:
To rear me was the task of power divine,
Supremest wisdom, and primeval love.
Before me things create were none, save things
Eternal, and eternal I shall endure.
All hope abandon, ye who enter here.**

**- Dante Alighieri,
The Divine Comedy, 1472 -**

The quotation selected by Rirkrit Tiravanija is the inscription that appears over the entrance to Hell.

The Divine Comedy, which Dante wrote in exile between 1307 and his death in 1321, is considered the first outstanding example of Italian poetry and remains one of the monumental masterpieces of world literature. It embodies the beginning of the Renaissance and has had a major influence on the arts through the ages. Rirkrit Tiravanija's artistic examination stands in the tradition of Sandro Botticelli, Eugène Delacroix, Robert Rauschenberg, Auguste Rodin, and many more.

Rirkrit Tiravanija

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1961, Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija is widely recognized as one of the most influential artists of his generation. His work defies media-based description, as his practice combines traditional object making, public and private performances, teaching, and other forms of public service and social action. Tiravanija is a member of the faculty of the School of the Arts at Columbia University, and is a founding member and curator of Utopia Station, a collective project of artists, art historians, and curators. Tiravanija also helped establish an educational-ecological project known as The Land Foundation, located in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He lives and works in Chiang Mai, Berlin, and New York. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions, including the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2016); Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2015); Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel (2009); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Serpentine Gallery, London (all 2005) as well as the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2004) and at the Venice Biennale (2003).

The Fondation Beyeler

The Fondation Beyeler is a museum of modern and contemporary art in Riehen, near Basel, Switzerland. Inaugurated in 1997 and set in an idyllic park, the museum was designed by architect Renzo Piano. The Fondation Beyeler is the most-visited art museum in Switzerland and owes its special appeal to the harmonious combination of exceptional art, picturesque nature and fascinating architecture. Every year, it shows up to four temporary exhibitions including projects in public spaces and just as many new presentations of the permanent collection.

Image caption: Rirkrit Tiravanija in front of *untitled 2018 (all hope abandon)* at the booth of the Fondation Beyeler at Art Basel Miami Beach 2018, courtesy the artist

Performance: Florian Tröbinger

Photograph by Sebastiano Pellion

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