

Flash Art

BUDAPEST

DAN PERJOVSCHI

MÜCSARNOK

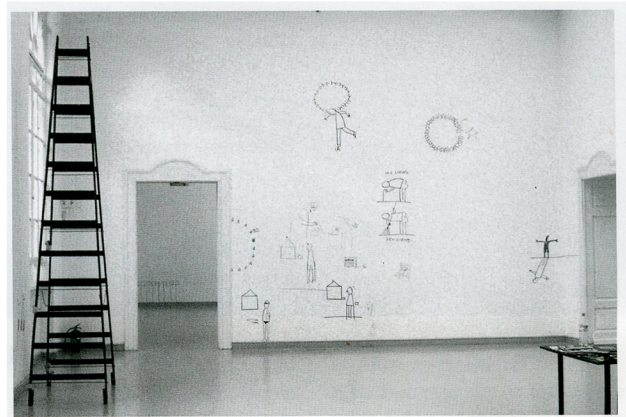
Sharp, condensed drawings that comment with a peculiar blend of criticism, irony and humor on the hottest social, political and cultural issues of the day have long become Dan Perjovschi's trademark. They appear in various formats, from his own notebooks to pages of newspapers and walls of art institutions.

Based in Bucharest, Perjovschi shows a lot abroad, mostly in Europe and in the USA. In order to counter the financial and administrative constraints arising from his East European background, the artist has developed a strategy that allows him to freely move between the exhibition locations: he draws in situ and shows works-in-progress. He deliberately accepts the ephemerality of his work, which disappears with the installation of further shows.

As the title suggests, Perjovschi's present show, "From Now On" in the Budapest Mücsarnok, has an increased performative character. It is the first time the artist has started the drawing process during the exhibition opening. In this way, he builds in the conjunctural element — already present in the theme of his drawings — in the very structure of the work. By doing this, he also takes some risks; but on the other hand, he develops a more relaxed relation with the host institution, which for local artists is a place of consecration rather than of experiment. Ultimately, Perjovschi presents a fresh blend of drawings that comment on the international political agenda, starting with the current Israeli/Lebanon conflict and ending up with the USA's extensive presence in the world, locating Budapest at the confluence of history, tourism, art and the expansion of the neoliberal economy.

As usual, Perjovschi doesn't spare irony when viewing his own position within the immediate context. His solo show is a 'summer show' located vis-à-vis that of Rembrandt in the opposite building of the Museum of Fine Arts. Between them lies the Square of Heroes.

Judith Angel



DAN PERJOVSCHI, *From Now On*, 2006. Wall drawings, Mücsarnok, Budapest.