



**THE CUCKOO SYNDROME**  
Design parasitärer Produktionsprozesse

Thursday 20 September 2012, at 7pm  
Kunstraum Niederoesterreich  
13 Herrengasse  
1014 Vienna  
Austria

*an exhibition by publicart Lower Austria, in cooperation with the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich and Vienna Design Week.*

As familiar as his heartwarming call from the forest is, his reputation as a nest-usurping parasite is equally morally dubious. The term **cuckoo syndrome** is used for types of parasitic systems of production that develop through the **appropriation of a location**, the nest, in this case the gallery, and its temporary conversion. A number of the projects shown in the exhibition use the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich as an autonomous production facility. In contrast to the standard rules of industrial design, which are usually subordinated to the rules of production and the economics governing the market, parasitic designers no longer design products anymore. Instead they create free spaces where the users themselves can become productive. The parasitic neither wants to educate nor to persuade us. It gets right under the skin of rational thought and infects it with the idea of change; with the possibility of adding dynamics to something static.

*On show and in operation are projects by **Pieke Bergmans** (NL), **Santiago Cirugeda** (E), **Curro Claret** (E), **Martí Guixé** (E), **Mischer'Traxler** (A) and **Andreas Strauss** (A).*

*curator: **Uli Marchsteiner***

The two works on show by the Catalan designer **Martí Guixé** are part of his project *Park Life*. The **Hidromel Factory** for producing mead (honey wine) is reminiscent of an alchemist's experimental setup and uses the Kunstraum as a place of production and a free-trade zone for an ancient drink which has fallen into obscurity. The work **Bee Roaming** is a mobile beehive that allows particular types of pollen, grasses or cereals to be located by the bees' work.

In the project **The Idea of a Tree** by the Austrian design duo Mischer'Traxler productivity from the economic laws of Time-to-Market is outsourced and introduced into a de-accelerated system, the cycle of nature. A solar-powered machine installed temporarily in the landscape makes a cylindrical (seating) object grow from a coloured cotton thread depending on the weather and light conditions.

With the project **Taburete 300** the Spanish designer **Curro Claret** gives people in straitened circumstances the opportunity to produce utility items, such as stools, tables or lamps, out of reusable materials. The link between 'design object' aesthetics and the real background of socially disadvantaged people appears to be the parasitic feature here. This also applies to the church pew that folds out into a bed, borrowing from the medieval tradition in the Catholic Church of taking-in displaced persons, pilgrims and homeless people temporarily in church buildings.

For the Upper Austrian designer **Andreas Strauss** "social bathing" is an everyday ritual beyond the current wellness boom: a loose gathering of family and friends in a relaxing and mutually respectful atmosphere. Strauss has nestled a wooden bathtub in the Kunstraum for the duration of the exhibition. His project **Hotpot** accords with the parasitic idea of temporarily re-coding defined areas. It is free for all to use in accordance with the bathing rules on certain days.

The parasitic strategies of the Spanish architect **Santiago Cirugeda** are aimed at the entire urban area, operating in what are usually legal loopholes. In the project **Kuva S.C.** a children's see-saw made from a skip provides a platform or seating for neighbourly get-togethers in public space. Cirugeda's "urban recipes" can be realised and spread without any architectural training, so demonstrating subversive potential.

In the work **Crystal Virus** the Dutch designer **Piekie Bergmans** shows furniture objects that have been occupied, and so robbed of their functionality, by a liquid glass bubble. Here the traditional technique of glass-blowing from the old royal glass factory in Leerdam/NL and its function-depriving application meet as a parasitic invasive material.

### supplementary programme

**20.09, 7pm:** Opening and guided tour of the exhibition with the curator Uli Marchsteiner. Followed by a discussion with Santiago Cirugeda (architect) and Curro Claret (designer).

**28.09, 8.30pm:** Mead tasting from Guixé's **Hidromel Factory** and a conversation between the artist and Uli Marchsteiner.

**4.10, 11am - 7pm:** Mischer'Traxlers sun-powered machine **The Idea of a Tree** in the courtyard of Palais NÖ.

**7.30pm:** **Crystal Virus** lecture by Piekie Bergmans.  
**followed by:** Discussion with Piekie Bergmans, Mischer'Traxler and Uli Marchsteiner.

**6.10, 6pm - 11pm:** Andreas Strauss' **Hotpot** — Collective Bathing.  
Part of the Long Night of the Museums.

### CATALOGUE

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CONTACT: Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abt. Kunst und Kultur, Landhausplatz 1, 3109 St. Pölten, Austria  
contact person: Aylin Pittner, T: +43 2742 9005 13504, F: +43 2742 9005 13910,  
E: [aylin.pittner@noel.gv.at](mailto:aylin.pittner@noel.gv.at) — [www.publicart.at](http://www.publicart.at)