

PRESS-INFORMATION

The artist Ottmar Hörl installs 1.250 "Hitler-gnomes" from October 15 to 19, 2009 in the Bavarian city of Straubing. – The Social Democratic Party of Straubing defended the project.

Opening: Thursday October 15, at 5 p.m.

**There will be 1.250 "poisoned"-gnomes of the artist Ottmar Hörl taking the area of the Ludwigsplatz (12 x 50 meters) in the Bavarian City of Straubing
The Social Democratic Party (SPD) initiated the occupation of the central place in the city – to permit an art-installation of this special kind. The content as well as the discussions around this subject will develop themselves, they meant.**

We should not turn our eyes away from the fascistic, dictatorial constant, the Fuhrer-principal: striving to oppress or control people is as dangerous now as it has ever been.

adds the artist Ottmar Hörl, commenting the background of the development of the "poisoned-gnome", first having presented as entrance-marker of the Lineart 2008 in Gent (Belgium).

But for the multiple-artist the public space – this podium of a dialogue with everyone – is the real place of his art-presentations: 2.000 "welcome"-gnomes have been shown in 1998 during the international festival of the opera in Munich – 7.000 Dürer-Rabbits for the 500 th anniversary of the Dürer-drawing in Nuremberg and 800 Wagner-dogs (New Foundlanders) during his city-transforming installation "Richard Wagner for the 21 st century).

That one single "Hitler-gnome" in a gallery of Nuremberg – how in July 2009 the poisoned-gnome got very fast an international subject because of the juridical question if it is a distribution of NS-propaganda – the installation in Straubing brings it back on the ground of the artist's facts: A public discussion can only be realised with a public presentation. – "And you never should think, that the public, the citizens are stupid", adds the mayor Hans Lohmeier.

A fact is, that I am polarising with my works. There are people who think that I am shit – the others think that I am very good. But a polarisation is healthy – because it leads to discussion. A permanent applause makes you sleepy..." (Ottmar Hörl)

The installation in Straubing has the title "dance with the devil" and is financed from a private side.