

# Paul Renner

## Theatrum Anatomicum

July 6 until July 13, 2007



Kunsthau Bregenz

**Press conference: Friday, July 6, 2007, 10 a.m.**

**With a short culinary performance by Paul Renner**

In the "Theatrum Anatomicum" created specifically for the Kunsthau Bregenz, both the mind and the senses will be sharpened as well as dissected. All actions within it should be experienced as synaesthetic processes that seek to find the point where all senses melt into one. As opposed to the former venues of this gesamt-kunstwerk (Naples, London, New York, Vienna), the "Theatrum Anatomicum" will be entirely rebuilt from scratch this time.

Paul Renner collaborated with Squid, a young Vienna-based architecture studio led by Gundolf Leitner, that designed the twelve-meter-high skull-shaped tent. Its luxurious interior will contain themes and objects from past and newly planned stages of the journey. 133 people can relax in the atmosphere of ultimate anesthesia this uterus-like structure offers.

The opening on July 6 entitled "Gas Night/Betäubung" is arranged by the historian of madness and drug-use proponent Mike Jay together with the cook Carles Abellan from Comerç 24, Barcelona, who was Ferran Adrià's right-hand man for more than ten years. Laughing gas is used both in Mike Jay's performances and in Carles Abellan's dishes. KUB's 10-year anniversary on July 7 will be a dissection party, "Nacht der Sektion," in which Medlar Lucan and Durian Gray will cut open carcasses in their performance with a team from the restaurant "das turm," Vienna. On July 9, these carcasses will be displayed as edible sculptures. Erwin Kasper will be the cook, accompanied by the premiere of a work by the composer Alexander Moosbrugger. On July 10, the cook Adi Bittermann will demonstrate eccentric forms of embalment in "Riten der Selbstaflösung" (Rites of Self-Disintegration). He will be accompanied by the Colombian singer Lucia Pulido and speaker and specialist Gerald Matt. "Dead and Gone Night" on July 12 pays homage to different killing rituals such as the Sicilian matanza and the transformation of the body into song and Japanese eating ceremonies. The evening's head cook is Martin Real who will be assisted by Japanese sushi masters, on-stage cook is Fritz Ostermayer. The grand finale on July 13 will feature Hermann Nitsch and Paul Renner performing jointly

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who will bring together the anatomy of the body and food. On four evenings, a sound-film by the acrobatic troop *zierKuss* will be projected onto the dissecting tables of “Theatrum Anatomicum.”

In 1995 and 1998, Johannes Gachnang and Paul Renner created *Symposium Vakanz*: their idea was to focus on the artistic experiment as performance practice and let artists create a stage for artists. Guided by the idea of designing a theater of obsessions, Lucan, Gray and Renner founded “The Hell Fire Touring Club” in London in 2000. It brought forth strange hybrid forms of traveling, eating, theater, painting, writing, sculpture and exhibition. Spurred on by visionary utopias, they worked on an atlas of the labyrinths of the hermetic Europe. They saw the continent as a colossal anesthetized corpus spread out on the operating table of history, hovering between life and death. Their journey across the continent began in Sicily and led them through eighteen other European places before they first presented their full report at the *Fondazione Morra* in Naples in 2002. They published a thick book in an edition of 19 copies, enclosed in a box (a cross between a cabinet of curiosities and a first-aid kit) that contained Medlar Lucan’s und Durian Gray’s texts and Paul Renner’s pictures.

In 2004, Renner created his next major work at the *Kunsthalle Wien* with the great spectacle “Hell Fire Dining Club,” in which he transformed the glass aquarium at *Karlsplatz* into a melting pot of art, food, alcohol and mystical technology. In 2006, Renner designed “The Hardcore Diner” for the gallery spaces of the New York gallery owner *Leo Koenig*. It was a temporary variation of the club, a compression chamber wallpapered with algae, a diner constructed out of bulky waste in which guests could wine and dine lavishly.



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## Program

### Theatrum Anatomicum

#### Advance reservations

Advance reservations can be made only via e-mail: [office@paulrenner.net](mailto:office@paulrenner.net);  
price per person incl. show, dinner and all drinks: € 125, Carles Abellan Night  
on July 6: € 200

#### Gas Night

**Friday, July 6, 7.30 p.m.**

Lecture: Mike Jay, London

Kitchen: Carles Abellan, Comerç 24, Barcelona

SoundFilm projection: zierKuss, Vienna

Price: € 200

A gastro-philosophical entertainment with nitrous oxide, the kitchen as laboratory, dining as intoxication, chemistry as poetry and SoundFilm projection part 1 »für taube«: the film, to which the sound track will be added live, shows the fusion of animals, a culinary meal and sign language as a physical experience: the cook will be Carles Abellan, who was Ferran Adrià's right-hand man at El Bulli's for more than ten years.

#### Live Dissection

**Ten-Year Anniversary KUB**

**Saturday, July 7, 7.30 p.m.**

Performance: Medlar Lucan and Durian Gray, Oxford

Kitchen: Bernie Rieder, Pablo Meier-Schomburg for "das turm" restaurant,  
Vienna

SoundFilm projection: zierKuss, Vienna

Price: € 125

Lucan and Gray, connoisseurs and researchers in Decadence, will undertake a live performance/dissection, plus SoundFilm projection part 2: "der sturm" follows the traces of The Decadent Restaurant, its founder, and its historical ancestors.

#### Hypnerotomachia Poliphili

**Monday, July 9, 7.30 p.m.**

Composer: Alexander Moosbrugger, Berlin

Concert: Kammerensemble Neue Musik, Berlin

Kitchen: Erwin Kasper, Schoppertau

Price: € 125



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Premiere of a commissioned performance. Poliphilo searches. Gaspard researches. Things lost. Things past. Things visible in reverse. Eatable sculptures after pictures of the “Hypnerotomachia” – labyrinth, oracle, Cupid, satyr, the architecture of the “Theatrum Anatomicum.”

### **Rites of Self-Disintegration**

**Tuesday, July 10, 7.30 p.m.**

Lecture: Gerald Matt, Vienna

Vocals: Lucia Pulido, Colombia

Kitchen: Adi Bittermann Vinarium, Göttlesbrunn

SoundFilm projection: zierKuss, Vienna

Price: € 125

Death as a creation, suicide rituals and eccentric self-anatomy, culinary Dandyism, and SoundFilm projection part 3: “letzte worte,” a filmic collage with audio accompaniment about the death of the historical ancestor of the nebulous restaurant.

### **Dead and Gone**

**Thursday, July 12, 7.30 p.m.**

Presentation Fritz Ostermayer, Vienna

Concert Quintetto Nitsch, Sicily

Kitchen: Japanese sushi masters and Martin Real, Weite

SoundFilm projection: zierKuss, Vienna

Price: € 125

Slaughtering, dissection, and transformation. Sicilian matanza songs coupled with the culinary consumption of fish and SoundFilm projection part 4: “für paul,” a filmed story about the personalization of death and its part in the continuation of life.

### **Orgien Mysterien Theater and Theatrum Anatomicum**

**Friday, July, 7.30 p.m.**

Action performance: Hermann Nitsch, Prinzendorf

Kitchen: Paul Renner, Grossdorf

Concert: Quintetto Nitsch, Sicily

Price: € 125

An action performance by Hermann Nitsch in parallel with a culinary performance by Paul Renner centering on the anatomy of food and the body. An aesthetic ritual glorification of existence.



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The Kunsthhaus Bregenz would like to thank its partners for their generous financial support and the cultural commitment that goes along with it.

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Opening hours:  
**During the “Mythos” exhibition,**  
**the Kunsthhaus Bregenz will be**  
**open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m**

**The “Theatrum Anatomicum” is**  
**open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m**