

Media Release 18 November 2007

DIE TÖDLICHE DORIS: SOUNDLESS MUSIC **alt.gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK**

Opening: 27 November 2007, 6-8pm
Lecture with Super-8 films: 28 and 29 November, 7.30pm
Exhibition: 28 November – 9 February 2008

“Die Tödliche Doris is still one of the long runners of German avant-garde art. If there is a theme in their artistic work then it is the search for signs of life, coupled with the attempt to breathe new life into them.” Journal Frankfurt, 1991

alt.gallery is pleased to announce its third exhibition **Die Tödliche Doris: Soundless Music**.

This is the first UK exhibition of work by the innovative Berlin art-punk group Die Tödliche Doris (The Deadly Doris). Founded in 1980 the group created records, tapes, films, performances, and exhibited their work widely including at documenta 8 in Kassel. Their seven-year plan saw the group dissolved into a bottle of Italian white wine in 1987, however Doris has had an afterlife through re-workings of documentation and recordings.

Led by artist Wolfgang Müller, Doris was conceived both as a conceptual music group and a character resembling a super housewife philosopher. Dada inspired, her identity constantly evolved, refusing a singular definition or image; the bands' logo was a Sparkasse Bank logo inverted, which made it look like a question mark. Their work playfully questioned the dominant power of the information system and its transformation through language, fashion and the media.

This exhibition will re-present their 1981 record “Die Tödliche Doris” and its re-release fifteen years later, that saw it interpreted through gesture and sign language. The thirteen tracks on the record each have a different personality trait expressed through different fashion designs, including pearl braces, carpet-tile-hair-do, wig bikini and the woodpecker shoe. The exhibition will show each fashion item and a video of the sign language interpretation, translating the original music and lyrics into a form of soundless music. This will be accompanied by images of the group taken by internationally acclaimed US photographer Nan Goldin.

The Deadly Doris were central to the new atonal music scene in 1980s West Berlin, performing at Martin Kippenberger's infamous music venue SO 36. In 1981 they performed at the Festival of Ingenious Dilletantes, a term invented by Müller who also edited the 1982 book ‘Geniale Dilletanten’. The event included performances by Einsturzende Neubauten, Nekropolis and Gudrun Gut, and encouraged the birth of techno music. Attempting to ignore the division between high art and subculture, amateurism and dilettantism were celebrated as democratic forces against both the capitalist system and GDR socialism.

For further press information and images please contact Rebecca Shatwell at mail@altgallery.org / 07789 305841. Interviews with Wolfgang Muller are possible.

Notes to Editors:

alt.gallery is a new gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne presenting international work by artists working at the intersection of visual art, music and sound. It is curated by Rebecca Shatwell and based within alt.vinyl record shop. alt.gallery is supported by Arts Council England. Media sponsor is The Wire magazine. The gallery website is www.altgallery.org

Die Tödliche Doris, for more information see: www.die-toedliche-doris.de

Wolfgang Müller continues to work as an artist producing exhibitions, performances, audio plays and music projects internationally, including The Dieter Roth Orchestra (2006), the first Icelandic translation of Goethe's Metamorphosis of Plants (2002), House Music – Starlings on Hjertoya sing Kurt Schwitters (2001), The Echo is the Dwarves' Language, audio play (2000) and The German-Icelandic Blue Tit-Book (1997). For more information see: www.wolfgangmueller.net

Edition Kröthenhayn released the DVD publication Wolfgang Müller - Gehörlose Musik – Die Tödliche Doris in Gebärdensprachlicher Gestaltung (Deaf Music Festival – The Deadly Doris in Signs and Gestures) in 2006. For more info see: www.kroethenhayn.com

Martin Schmitz Verlag have published several books on Die Tödliche Doris, see: www.martin-schmitz-verlag.de

alt.vinyl is a music business based in central Newcastle upon Tyne, comprising of record store, label, online music retail and gig promotion activities. Since its inception it has established a wide reputation for its support of and work with the regional music scene. It stocks a broad range of genres from blues and jazz through punk, hip hop and dubstep to free folk, psychedelia and new weird america. The alt.vinyl label has released limited run lathe eps by luminaries of the global noise and improv underground, notably astral social club, volcano the bear, prurient, jazzfinger, united light and tight meat duo with more releases from the likes of hive mind, robedoor, graveyards, demons and zoviet*france coming by mid 2007. For more information see the alt.vinyl website at www.altvinyl.com or email info@altvinyl.com

Listings Information:

Die Tödliche Doris: Soundless Music
28 November – 9 February 2008

alt.gallery (entry via alt.vinyl) 61/62 Thornton Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AW.
Tel +44 (0) 191 222 1213 / mail@altgallery.org
www.altgallery.org
Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm / Thursday 10am – 8pm
Admission Free

Events:

A History of Die Tödliche Doris by Wolfgang Müller

Wednesday 28 November, 7:30pm, Admission Free
Star and Shadow Cinema, Stepney Bank, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2NP

Thursday 29 November, 7:30pm, £3 / £1.50
The Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

A performance lecture with Super-8 films by Wolfgang Müller founding member of Berlin based conceptual art group Die Tödliche Doris (The Deadly Doris). The group existed from 1980 – 1987 and produced avant-garde music, film and performance projects including exhibiting at documenta 8, Kassel. Their radical Dadaist character embodied the city's unstable identity and their acclaimed Super-8 films, including *The Life of Sid Vicious* and *Berliner Kitchen Music* evoke a disappearing era. Presented as part of the Die Tödliche Doris exhibition at alt.gallery from 28 November – 9 February 2008.

www.starandshadow.org.uk

www.cca-glasgow.com

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