

# ANARCHY

When we are marching side by side

2015 © Franz Wassermann



HELDENPLATZ



## CONCEPT

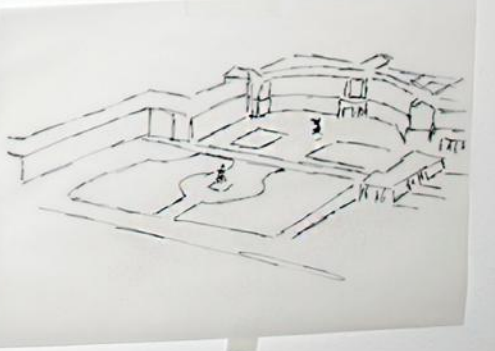
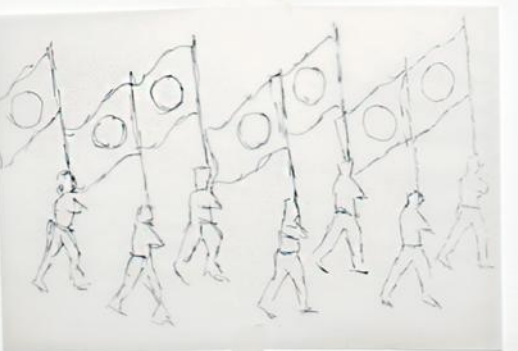
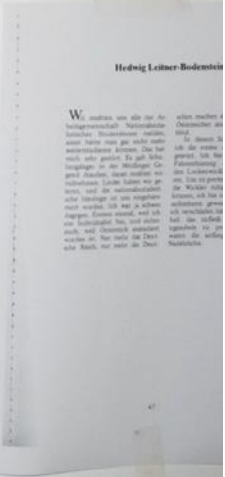
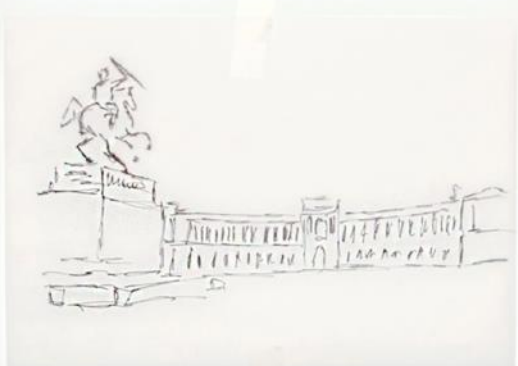
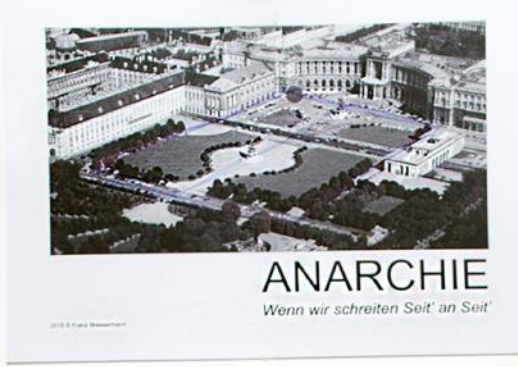
**HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY / When we are marching side by side** is a political demonstration in the form of an art performance. On October 31<sup>st</sup> 50 flag bearers will be traversing the *Heldenplatz* in Vienna. The design of the flags (red background, white circle in the center) refers to National Socialism. But in the historic version, one would find the *Hakenkreuz* in the center of the flag. By contrast, Franz Wassermann shows the names of powerful companies and brands on this spot: *google, Ikea, Monsanto* et cetera. Even Franz Wassermann's own name will be presented on one of the banners.



**HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY / When we are marching side by side** refers to the political history of Vienna and mirrors it in a contemporary setting to question authoritarian structures of the present. In this demonstration the march with flags which is usually deployed by the state is used by the artist to ask what kind of influence neoliberal companies exert on the government.

**CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ARE:** What changes does the influence of neoliberalism cause within the state and within us? Which behaviours are developed *within* and *with* an entirely capitalistic society? What does global capital long for – democracy or dictatorship? How do strategies of Nazi propaganda influence contemporary marketing? Who benefits from the strengthening nationalism? Is there awareness for the fact that we are individuals who act globally?

To address the role of the individual in neoliberalism Franz Wassermann representatively prints his own name on one of the flags. He thereby alludes to the feeling of power and powerlessness which is experienced by people who support the dominant system or discover its limitations on the search for alternatives.



sketches: HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY / When we are marching side by side 2015 © Franz Wassermann





Heldenplatz Vienna, location of **HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY** / When we are marching side by side



Archduke Karl Monument with flag, Heldenplatz Vienna



## BACKGROUND



**HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY / When we are marching side by side** is based on the piece **ANARCHY / flags** which was presented in 2014 in a solo show in Innsbruck. It was then the artist published a first proposal of how to bring his flags to the public space. In the photomontage **ANARCHY / Ministry of Aviation Berlin** (image at the left hand side) Franz Wassermann stages the presentation of **ANARCHY / flags** at the house front of the former Ministry of Aviation in Berlin. The aesthetics of Wassermann's flags connect with the national socialist background of the building and evoke the impression of a historic image whereas the names of currently powerful brands that are shown in the center of the flags make a sudden connection to the present. In **HELDENPLATZ ANARCHY / When we are marching side by side** this concept is enriched by a performative aspect; the flags are carried by 50 flag bearers; Heldenplatz is occupied.

## CV

**Franz Wassermann**, born in 1963, lives and works as a sculptor in Vienna. He is concerned with structures of power in our society and explores the coming and going of power and powerlessness that influences the individual as well as the collective. His performances and sculptures deal with tabooed issues like for example sexual abuse of children (**SCARS**), National Socialism and culture of remembrance (**TEMPORARY MONUMENT**), Aids and stigma (**BARBIE + KEN = HIV+**), migration (**ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS**), authority and symbolic capital in the cultural sector (**ALBERTINA, ICONS**) and the power of the media and the image (**ACTION CARRIERS**).

Wassermann makes these topics visible in public space and starts dialogues to which he reacts by means of art and which become parts of his work. Therefore, the artist cooperates with different partners e.g. the public, associations, activists, companies and experts from other fields of knowledge. The traces of these dialogues are presented in the gallery space as object, videos, photos and prints where they initiate a second kind of discussion.

## CONTACT

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