
J&K present:

THE BABYLON CASE

A TIME CAPSULE FOR OUR CIVILIZATION

The German/Danish artist-duo J&K have been instrumental in discovering, decoding and conserving *The Babylon Case*, and have now decided to offer it to humanity, as a parallel to the temporary two-part exhibition "Babylon. Myth and Truth" at The Pergamonmuseum. Presented in a dedicated room, the time capsule is the artist's comment to the museological representation of Babylon, and offers a 'third space' for questioning the polarities of truth and myth that form the premise of the temporary exhibition.

The Babylon Case is initiated and produced by J&K with curatorial and artistic support from Cecilie Nusselein Gravesen.

Technical support on the artwork:
3D image by www.stebbing3d.com,
light design by Heinz Kasper,
carpentry by Bernd Schaller.

As a companion to the exhibition, a publication is available at the museum shop, edited by Cecilie Nusselein Gravesen and J&K, with essays by Michael Fehr and Nicholas Mirzoeff, designed by Åbake.

At the dawn of the earliest of civilizations, an intricate prophecy was engraved in a tablet of clay by an unknown hand. The inscription predicted that the legacy of Babylon would irrefutably preordain our current era. Meanwhile, through unexplained routes, an enigmatic museum capsule from a future age has found its way to our time. To date, it has been necessary to conceal it from the public eye for security and research purposes, however, for the very first time its dimly lit room at the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin is now opened to visitors.

The seemingly reticent wooden exterior of the hexagon-shaped capsule reveals a number of apertures through which an expansive, manifold tableau can be glimpsed. Together, these different compartments display key relics from past, present and future that reflect the time span from the original Babylonian genesis to its decline in the future. This extended period is in itself proclaimed to be intrinsically Babylonian.

Displayed inside the peculiar museum-receptacle is the prophetic clay tablet, its arrival in our time indicating the approaching culmination of civilization as we know it. The Babylonian cabinet of curiosities allows us to view our culture from the outside, grasping its essence with a clarity previously unattainable. The alarming question is thus raised; can any form of new civilization be imagined beyond the present and underlying cultural chassis of Babylon ?

26th June – 05th October 2008
PERGAMONMUSEUM, Museum Island Berlin
Am Kupfergraben 5, 10117 Berlin
Opening times: Sun-Wed 9 am – 6 pm / Thu-Sat 9 am – 10 pm
In conjunction with "Babylon. Myth and Truth"

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