

## **sasha schwartz**

recent works

a commentary by Klaus Haas, Bayerischer Rundfunk

The new works have a common basic topic:  
violence, deformation, disillusionment.

### **“Provincials”**

<http://www.sasha-schwartz.de/detail.php/kat.1/id.118/detail.php>

The “Provincials” – Here the artist concerns himself with the problem of violence- depicted in media. The answer – a highly original installation, which name has nothing to do with geography, a group of almost life-size figures based on the computer war games heroes, digital information at the word taken and translated into the three-dimensional one.

The seven sculptures almost entirely made out of about 150 000 jelly-babies – this has on one hand the effect, that the figures keep a pixel similar blurriness. On the other hand, the composition points to the obscenity, that we are ready to corrupt our kids and ourselves with martial violence, made to kill figures as a pastime. A special form of a social self-mutilation. .

The figures, work here as an assault detachment for those, who, with their provincial, simplified thinking, divide our world into good and bad ones and try to sell this thinking further.

### **“Ulrike”**

<http://www.sasha-schwartz.de/detail.php/kat.1/id.114/detail.php>

“Ulrike” too, has a lot to do with violence and self-mutilation. A giant hand grenade made from party-liners with menstrual blood trails, has a pull ring, which reminds of a gallows loop. While the blood symbolises life, the hand grenade itself is a symbol for devastation and death.

The pull ring made from a piece of electric cable refers to the suicide of the name giver of the installation – Ulrike Meinhof.

### **“Spillin’ the Romance”**

<http://www.sasha-schwartz.de/detail.php/kat.1/id.116/detail.php>

The “Spillin’ the Romance” is less about physical force than rather disillusionment.

The overturned garbage can with sprawled out remains of a relation is, so to speak, a look in the backyard of an unknown love. It shows the actual one, as well the interchangeable on the other side of the feelings, the transfigurations and the legend love. This perspective allows sufficient room for statements of every kind at the same time; however, it is not at all an intention to take the halo away from love or to denounce it merely.

### **“Two Unicorns”**

<http://www.sasha-schwartz.de/detail.php/kat.1/id.115/detail.php>

Legend is finally the keyword for “Two Unicorns”. That mythical horned creature - a symbol of virginity, was already subject at the court of the Persian kings, mentioned with Aristotle and Caesar. In the Middle Ages it was widely believed that the horn has great healing powers, of course also for the increase of a man’s potency.

However, how Unicorn reproduced itself is unknown – and here lies the allusion of this pastoral work.

There is an enormous will in the new works of Sasha Schwartz to find the answer, to carve in the distortions and the sham existences of our society. He makes it not in a form of a compliant, but by taking the right details and then sharpening them. Nothing self-righteous there, but a lot of a sarcastic irony. Thrilling art and great artistic craftsmanship.