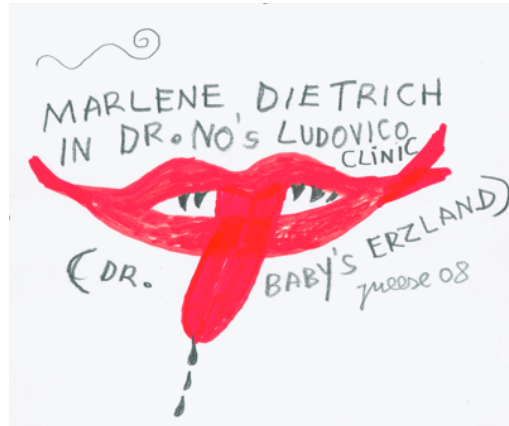


## **JONATHAN MEESE'S LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION AT THE WATERMILL CENTER WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC JULY 31–AUGUST 10**

**MARLENE DIETRICH IN DR. NO'S LUDOVICO-CLINIC  
(DR. BABY'S ERZLAND)**



**Exhibition will follow a preview at the Watermill Summer Benefit  
July 26**

For the **15th Annual Watermill Summer Benefit** and a two-week public exhibition to follow, **Jonathan Meese** will turn the Watermill Center into an installation entitled *Marlene Dietrich in Dr. No's Ludovico-Clinic (Dr. Baby's Erzland)*. The German artist will take over the Watermill spaces created by **Robert Wilson** and will incorporate Wilson's eclectic collection, transforming Wilson's pure design into a fantastic, ever-changing assemblage of cult, kitsch and historical relics.

Following a preview during the **Watermill Summer Benefit** on **July 26**, featuring one of Meese's singular live performances, *Marlene Dietrich in Dr. No's Ludovico-Clinic (Dr. Baby's Erzland)* will be **open to the public, free of charge**, Thursday through Sunday, **July 31 to August 3**, from **5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**; Thursday through Saturday, **August 7 to August 9**, from **5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**; and on **August 10**, during the **Watermill Center Open House**, **3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** The Watermill Center is located at 39 Watermill Towd Road in Watermill, New York.

The installation at Watermill will create a vibrant hybrid of two artistic minds that both tend towards the "Gesamtkunstwerk," or complete and integrated artwork. Wilson will spend time with Meese, explaining to the latter the logic of his place and collection. Meese will then set about deconstructing and re-imagining it all while working at Watermill until the installation's opening during Watermill's summer gala on July 26. Meese's work will be the highlight of the event. Meese will create around 20 new performance videos at Watermill that will be featured in the installation. He will also give a special performance on the benefit night (July 26). The installation will also premiere two new gigantic bronze sculptures that are currently being cast in Germany.

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

Rarely is an artist willing to so radically and totally re-interpret another artist's work; and rarely does an artist allow another artist to transform his own work. On the one hand, this project brings together two artists with disparate aesthetic sensibilities: Meese in his dark splendor and Wilson in his abstract grandeur. Yet there is considerable common ground shared by Wilson's and Meese's artistic visions. Both artists fill spaces to the brim with their aesthetics; both are all-encompassing in their approach; both play with props in a metaphysical child's game; and both addictively mix and shake up traditions, backgrounds, culture, history and meaning.

The Watermill installation will follow on the heels of Meese's highly acclaimed solo show currently open at Bortolami Gallery in New York (through June 18), *Dictatorbaby Mary Poppin's Cats, Dogs and Eggpies (The Revolutionbaby De Large IS Back)*. When the Bortolami show concludes, many of the sculptures featured in it will be transported to Watermill and included by Meese in his work there.

The **Watermill Center** and **Robert Wilson** have invited some of the most exciting emerging artists to create site-specific installations for the Annual Watermill Summer Benefit in the past: Os Gemeo, Tania Bruguera, Cao Fei and Andrey Bartenev, to name a few. Since their engagements at Wilson's secluded Southampton laboratory for the creative process, all of these artists have gone on to garner tremendous success and international acclaim.

For benefit tickets, call Natascha Theis at 212.253.7484 ext. 16 or email [natascha.theis@robertwilson.com](mailto:natascha.theis@robertwilson.com).

## About Jonathan Meese

Jonathan Meese was born in 1970 in Tokyo and lives and works in Berlin and Hamburg. He is a painter and sculptor whose work ranges from installation to performance, set design, directing and playwriting. In Meese's own words, "Art is its own motive force, its own drive, its own instinct, its own reality, its own politics and its own confusion. For Art, human sensibility is simply not relevant."

Meese's works are filled with references to history, literature, pop culture and the art world. His archeo-family consists of every dictator in history and fiction as well as the great geniuses that have altered the course of history. He plays with and modifies the identity of these figures, demonizing them and leaving behind an ever-changing arrangement of his props.

Meese's solo work has been exhibited at Tate Modern, London; La Caixa, Barcelona; Kunstraum Innsbruck, The Essl Museum in Vienna; De Appel Centre for Contemporary Art, Amsterdam; and Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe. In addition, he has shown at the Louisiana Museum; MAGASIN Center in Grenoble; and Deichtorhallen, Hamburg. Meese was chosen by Matthew Barney as one of two artists for the housewarming of his studio in Long Island City.

Meese is represented by Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin.

## About the Watermill Center

The Watermill Center was founded in 1992 by theater and visual artist Robert Wilson to foster research into the arts of the stage, to provide young and emerging artists with a unique environment for creation and exploration in theater and all its related art forms, and to develop a strong global network transcending age, experience, social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

Watermill supports projects that reflect the approach of its founder Robert Wilson: mixing and integrating different genres and art forms, breaking with traditional forms of representation, developing democratic and cross-cultural approaches. Watermill is about living and working together, about creating your own environment and sharing this experience with others.

Watermill houses the archives of its founder and his extensive art collection for research, study and inspiration. The whole of human experience and traditions in all their diversity is the springboard for the avant-garde of the future.

Watermill offers a wide range of programs and activities throughout the year. For the well-known International Summer Program, Robert Wilson invites about 80 artists, young as well as established, for workshops developing his work. From September to June, Watermill provides space and time for 12 to 15 artists' residencies selected by a high-profile committee of practitioners in the arts and humanities. The residencies are complemented by educational programs with schools and other institutions, public events such as open rehearsals and lectures, tours of the building and grounds, and seminars and symposia.

**For more information, contact Blake Zidell at  
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