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Werner Büttner
History — a whole bag of tricks
An edification/instruction mix

DEFENDING KIEFER

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Anselm Kiefer *Der Rhein* 1982.
Woodcut in several parts on blotting and handmade paper, mounted on canvas 115

History is the holes pissed by the winners in the carpet of snow that lies over the places where the damaged things are. We know a man who satisfies all requirements to be called by someone (not by us) a Nazi. He dreamt that he was speaking with Adolf Hitler.
Hitler: "Nazi, why do things get disordered?"
Nazi: "What do you mean? Things? Disorder?"
Hitler: "Well, people spend a lot of time tidying things up, but they seem never to need much time to disorder things. Everything seems to get disordered by itself and then people have to tidy up again."
The man awoke, quit the NSDAP, became an anti-fascist and set out rat traps. But soon he had to recognize that

his traps were failing one after the other. Things continued to be eaten up. He was so despondent that he decided to invent his own trap. He began by putting himself in the state of mind of a rat until he was no anti-fascist anymore. Soon he won a gigantic sum in the lottery; which was surely accidental, but necessary to prove the sentence: "survival means that special descriptive claims about a living system remain true for a certain amount of time." One day, in possession of this great sum, he invited the notable people of his small town to a big party. At the party he forced the guests, to their surprise, to eat nothing but chocolate with knife and fork. Guests who refused were hit on the head with a bottle of schnapps.

The story of this man is good. It clarifies the abandonment of the old game and the adoption of the new game within the union of living and lifeless things (ULLT). One could call the old game "anthropopemie" (from Greek *emein*, "vomiting") and it means that certain antiquated unions expel dangerous individuals from the social body and isolate them for a certain period, or forever, in institutions, for the prevention of their contact with other individuals. The bloody church invented this game and thus plays it best. The new game could be called "anthropophagic" (man-eat-man). It means the incorporating of certain frightening individuals to neutralize their frightening powers, or as Levi-Strauss quite rightly perceived long

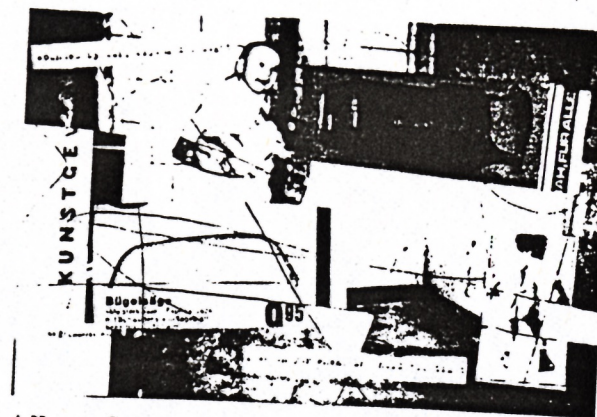
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Saatchi Collection

before us — even to use them.
As we, quite rightly, previously said, "intelligence depends on the light conditions." The illumination of our hero was obviously winning the lottery. It put him in a position to replace the old game with the new and to defeat his former enemies by throwing a victory party first. The efficiency — elegance — of this new method and the desolation of the old one are revealed, in a most depressing way, by looking first to Oregon and from Oregon to Frankfurt. Following the Bhagwan, some ten thousand dancing, grinning, screwing, willingly working, extremely busy under the credo of "disciplinelessness," strictly organized and disciplined nincompoops try to isolate themselves in Oregon. The withdrawal of those valuable

forces from the mental and material economy of the ULLT cannot be allowed, any more than the flight of academics from the DDR. The commune is destroyed by international agreement, the valuable forces are eaten up and incorporated (new method).
Our Frankfurt example shows the old method. Anti-fascists "fight the beginnings" and prevent the staging of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's play in which anti-semites say anti-semitic sentences and a Jew wrecks houses. This is the most extreme exclusion strategy. Under the pretext of fighting a dangerous force, they fight, in reality, the representation of this dangerous force and unify under the name "anti-dangerous force." Because as everyone has always known, still knows



Albert Oehlen
Wounded by war, crying for light
Gnaw on your enemy and hold him tight

AGAINST HIS DEVOTEES

AND ALBERT OEHLER

and especially knows now: there is no fascism today. The term — anti-fascist — is defined by the anti-fascist himself. This makes it possible for him to attack any theme at any time at any place. For example, he can unmask a fascist as anyone who frequently uses the word "absolute." The anti-fascist thinks he is smart but he is only a dumb dog. He talks only rubbish. When he opens his mouth he blows his stinking breath under one's nose. The anti-fascist is the eternal loser. He has had his chance . . . in fascism. He who calls himself anti-fascist today mocks the resistance against the Nazis. He hallucinates his arse into a battle that was over in '45.

Translated by Mayo Thompson

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