



18 June - 2 July 2026

**Constantin Brancusi • Anner Cohen • Anna Jermolaewa • Roy Lichtenstein
• Matthew Murphy • Victoria Pidust • Archie Rand**

Uechtingstraße 1
45881 Gelsenkirchen, Schalke-Nord

**Preview Days: 18 - 20 June, 12 - 7 pm
Official Opening: 21 June, 3 - 7 pm**

LETTER TO WALT DISNEY

Dear Walt,

I have spent some time with your kingdom, that glittering republic of innocence you have so meticulously engineered, and I find myself less enchanted than instructed. You have achieved something remarkable: a world in which suffering is aestheticized, history is bleached, and terror is rendered so polite that even the children cannot quite recognize it as terror. This is not a small feat. It is, in fact, a national one.

You have taken the oldest American impulse—the refusal to look at what one has done—and given it a soundtrack, a color palette, and a procession of smiling animals. Your landscapes are immaculate because they have been evacuated. No blood stains your soil, no labor bends its back beneath your castles, no past interrupts the perpetual present of your cheerful mythology. You have not created fantasy so much as you have embalmed reality.

What concerns me is not merely the lie, but the appetite for it. Your audience does not wander into your world by accident. They arrive hungry... hungry to forget, hungry to believe that innocence is a natural condition rather than a fragile and often fraudulent achievement. And you feed them well. You give them a universe in which good and evil are cleanly divided, where virtue requires no cost, and where redemption is always accompanied by a song.

But there is a danger in this. A people who learn to see themselves only in such mirrors will come to fear any reflection that shows them otherwise. They will call it distortion, or worse, betrayal. They will reject the complicated, the unresolved, the human. And in doing so, they will reject themselves. You have built an empire on the eradication of contradiction. Yet contradiction is the very engine of life. It is where growth occurs, where truth struggles into being. To deny it is not to preserve innocence, but to enforce ignorance. And ignorance, as history has shown us with relentless clarity, is never neutral.

I suspect you understand this on some level. One does not achieve your scale of influence without glimpsing the machinery beneath the spectacle. But you have made your choice. You have chosen comfort over confrontation, myth over memory, and in doing so, you have helped to sustain a national dream that cannot survive being awakened.

The trouble is that awakening will come, whether invited or not. Reality is patient in ways fantasy cannot afford to be. And when it arrives, it will not sing.

Sincerely, _____