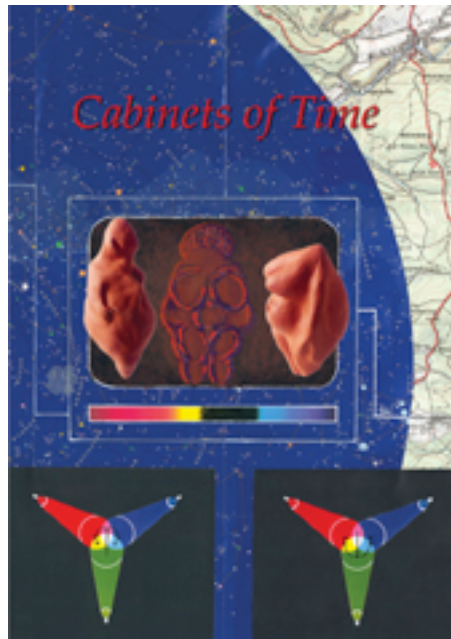


# Cabinets of Time

An Installation  
by Susanne Kompast and Alexander Curtis



The project "Cabinets of Time" takes the idea of a typical or "archetypal" sitting room and uses it to create a place where alternative approaches to time are presented. In this space, visitors can relax on a sofa, enjoy a cup of coffee and a chocolate, whilst being surrounded by effigies that bear witness to different ways of experiencing and defining time.



Looking in through the window the prospective visitor sees what is a clearly typical sitting room and in the foreground, the main work by Susanne Kompast. This consists of an iron ring on which 26 clay figurines are mounted at regular intervals.



The description reveals that the 26 figurines represent a monthly cycle of the sculptress, with one figurine being made on each day of the cycle, the figurines expressing the sculptress' state of being on the day they were made.





On the sofa table is the remote control of the DVD player, while on the TV screen the documentary „The Venus Figurines of the Gravette considered as an Expression of a Concept of Time“ argues that the prehistoric Venus figurines displayed in the first cabinet (next page) are the embodiment of a concept of time which was focused on the monthly rhythms of the female body.

The other films, with their eccentric yet clearly male perspective, show the filmmaker (and by implication all men) as a moth fluttering in the light reflected by the most famous Venus figurine of them all... the Venus of Willendorf.



In between the two glass cabinets is a large collage by Alexander Curtis, composed principally of a star map and a map of the locality around Willendorf. The collage sketches out an idea involving the refraction of light and the Venus of Willendorf.



Examination of the glass cabinet nearest the door, reveals copies of prehistoric Venus figurines, labelled with their names and dates. The description informs that the copies were made by Alexander Curtis for a film which can be seen on the TV.



The second cabinet shows earlier fertility inspired effigies and rattles by Susanne Kompast. These put the main work in perspective, relating it on the one hand to the prehistoric figurines shown in the first cabinet but also showing how, compared to these early sketches, the figurines of main work succeed in articulating personal states of being.





On entering the room, the visitor is greeted and offered an espresso with a chocolate Venus of Willendorf. As part of the bar, is a stand with "Venus products", including the DVD project shown on the TV, a make-your-own Venus of Willendorf Paper Model and a Venus of Willendorf relief.