

N I T - “ t h r e a d ”

As a rule, the woolen thread characteristic of the work of Barbara Bernsteiner is grey – and such it is also in this installation entitled *i_frozen-dwarfs-time_07*. The special grey tint actually negates the colouring and elevates the form. The functions of various useful objects, which are all covered with the same crocheted pattern, have been abstracted. Together with completely abstract objects, such as crocheted sticks, they are placed in compositions reflecting a high level of purely modernistic visual language, which enable various contextual interpretations. Nevertheless, Bernsteiner's work contains a highly expressive narrative component. In the works *i_frozen-dwarfs-time_07* and *E_tisch_00*, a pleasant dinner for two has been transformed into a new scene, which is laden with the traumas of everyday routines and misunderstandings, and presented almost as a dreadful image of Dorian Gray. The twisted stalks of wineglasses and cut-off legs of chairs and tables symbolise tragic developments in numerous partnerships – not to speak of the apple's symbolic value at all. Enchainment. Confinement. Confinement? It may be that the objects covered by the same crocheted pattern are a metaphor for encasement. But beware! The wall clock, which is also meticulously covered by the crocheted pattern, is still ticking. No matter how much the pleasant memory has been transformed, life goes on and hope remains

(Maja Skerbot, “thread – NIT” SlovenjGradec, Slovenia 2007)