Sven Friedrich: »Scenographing Wagner«

»Scenographing Wagner« in a museal context is nearly an aesthetic opposite to the stagings of his works in theatre: while theatre always and only exists in the ephemeral presence of the performance, the museum tries to conserve something which does not really exist in material respect: history, theatre – and ideology.

The new conception and construction of the museum over the next years targets a new access to the cultural phenomenon “Wagner” as a staging of cultural history between historic reconstruction and the creation of exhibitions as spaces of imagination and experience, made possible by scenography.

Related to the idea of the »Gesamtkunstwerk«, the exhibition of a Wagner Museum has not only to handle the history of the performances at the Bayreuther Festspiele, but, considering reality as much as the theatrical moments, it also has to present the life and the work of Richard Wagner and – of course – the auratic and ambivalent “Wagner-Mythos” including its ideology.

The lecture shows the concept of the exhibition designed by hg merz, which will present life and works of Wagner in the authentic atmosphere of his house “Wahnfried”, the Wagner-Ideology in the historical rooms of the “Siegfried-Wagner-Haus” and the history of the Bayreuth Festival in the additional new museum’s building, designed by Volker Staab.