

Kunsthhaus Graz

Press Release

Kunsthhaus Graz
Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz, Österreich
www.kunsthhausgraz.at

presse@kunsthhausgraz.at
Telefon +43-664/8017-9214, -9213

Isa Rosenberger Shadows, Gaps, Voids

Kunsthhaus Graz, Space02, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz

Opening: 09.02.2023, 6pm

Exhibition dates: 10.02.–01.05.2023

Curated by Barbara Steiner, Alexandra Trost

In cooperation with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

Information: +43 316 8017-9200, www.kunsthhausgraz.at

Isa Rosenberger's artistic interest is historiographical, examining the writing of history, its abridgements, suppressions and revisions. More than this: her film installation works often go on a search for traces that will give space and visibility to the hidden, repressed and forgotten, mostly of feminist women's history.

Rosenberger connects the body knowledge of her female protagonists, both their personal and generation-shaping experiences together with socio-political events in the past and present. The latter are closely linked to Jewish culture and history. Discussions with contemporary witnesses, documentary and fictional modes of narration, performative approaches and (re-)stagings create a network of connections, continuities, interruptions and synchronicities – in short: a multi-perspectival historiography in which gaps and voids are constitutive. Rosenberger ties these in with current issues and discourses: the voluntary or forced migration of people, but also of knowledge, economic crises and critique of capitalism or the creative and self-empowering handling of economic and political adversities. In this way, the present writes itself into the past, and the past becomes alive in the present.

Montage is used in the realisation of her films: the levels of speech, language and visual narration switch, fragment and join up again at other points. This principle is transferred – in spatialised form – to the exhibition itself. Curtains, plinths, wall panels, furniture and film projections are components of the work and at the same time become structuring elements within the exhibition. The separation between artworks and exhibition display fades away: architecture, work and performance are interwoven.

The artist's most comprehensive show to date features six older works and a new piece, a co-production with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. Together they form the spatial, visual and content framework for the exhibition scenography. The exhibition space

provides the stage for a production in various scenes, and in the process becomes the scenery itself.

Works shown: *Espiral* (2010–2013), MANDA (2023, coproduction with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation), *Courage* (2015), Ružinov (2009–2010), ... *das weite Land, woher sie kommt* (2019–2020), *Got it rough 'cause I'm a She* (2021), *Café Vienne ... full of spirits so free* (2014/2018).

Accompanying the exhibition is a catalogue published by VfmK Verlag für Moderne Kunst with texts by Doris Berger, Torsten Blume, Sabeth Buchmann, Kurt Kladler, Elke Krasny, Barbara Steiner and Alexandra Trost.

Statements:

Alexandra Trost

'In the film installations shown at Kunsthaus Graz, Isa Rosenberger gives visibility and space to fragments of forgotten and marginalised feminist history, Jewish (women's) history and migratory-transformative movements of people, knowledge and capital. We transfer her artistic principle of montage to the exhibition: Space02 becomes a scenographic stage on which the work, display and also accompanying programme are interlinked.'

Barbara Steiner (Director of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation)

'In and with the exhibition, my former work at Kunsthaus Graz ties in with my current work at the Bauhaus Dessau. As part of Isa Rosenberger's residency at the Bauhaus she created a new work that is now shown for the first time in Graz. One of the aspects Rosenberger explores is the structural disadvantages faced by women artists, which were also to be found at the Bauhaus and persist to this day. Particularly women artists who work with performance have little or no representation in museum collections.'

Artist biography

Isa Rosenberger (* 1969) lives and works in Vienna. She studied at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht. She currently teaches as Senior Lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Her works have been shown both in Austria and internationally at numerous group and solo exhibitions. Solo exhibitions have appeared at Camera Austria in Graz, Kunsthalle Exnergasse in Vienna, Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, Grazer Kunstverein, Edith Russ House for Media Art in Oldenburg and Secession Vienna, among others. Group exhibitions include: 2021 Dom Museum Vienna; 2020 Salzburg Festival; 2018 Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb; 2017 Belvedere 21, Vienna, Kunsthaus Graz; 2016 Bergen Assembly, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine, Montreal, <rotor> Centre for Contemporary Art, Graz; 2015 Koroska Art Gallery, Slovenj Gradec, Wiener Festwochen; 2014 LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz.

In 2008 she received the Otto Mauer Prize and in 2012 the Outstanding Artist Award for Video and Media Art.

Isa Rosenberger is represented by Charim Galerie in Vienna.