



Alexandra Bircken: *Fair Game*

19 September 2021 – 15 May 2022

Opening: 18 September 2021, 2 – 10 pm

Kesselhaus

A central theme in Alexandra Bircken's art is skin—as a cellular membrane, as an organ, and as clothing, but also as the boundary between inside and outside. The artist creates sculptures and installations out of textile materials, machine parts, wood, steel, and latex, in which she examines the relationship between body and shell and the interfaces between human beings and machines.

Bircken's site-specific installation *Fair Game* (2021) is dominated by a female figure armed with a sabre and made of colourful and diverse materials. Her head is crowned with what look like antlers, consisting of the exhaust of an engine. A group of black figures—empty shells made of black latex skins—are scattered throughout the room. Some of them are individualised with embroidery in the form of applied organs such as eyes, a heart, muscles, or a spine.

For her first institutional solo exhibition in Berlin, Bircken combines readymade objects such as matte black beer kegs from the Rollberg brewery at the KINDL with specially made, hand-blown glass bodies; synthetic hair with real hair; and nylon with bones in her ongoing exploration of different materials and production methods. The installation opens up various spaces of reference, from battle paintings to club situations; a 20-meter-long rope ladder made of bone spans the height of the Kesselhaus in a grid pattern. The accompanying soundtrack by Thomas Brinkmann includes the sound of a pulsating heartbeat, voices from public spaces, and the rattling of industrial looms.

Curated by Kathrin Becker

Part of Berlin Art Week 2021

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

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Alexandra Bircken (*1967 in Cologne, lives in Berlin and Munich) has been a professor of sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich since 2018.

Selected solo exhibitions: Museum Brandhorst, Munich (2021 – 2022); Fridericianum, Kassel (since 2020); Secession, Vienna (2019); Studio Voltaire, London (2018 and 2011); Le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine (2017); Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach (2017); Künstlerhaus, K21 Ständehaus, Düsseldorf (2016); Kunstverein Hannover (2016); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2014); The Hepworth Wakefield (2014); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2008).

Selected group exhibitions: Museum Folkwang, Essen (2019); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2019); 58th Venice Biennale (2019); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2018); The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2016); Glasgow International (2016); Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (2015); Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2015); Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden (2014 – 2015); Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston (2014 – 2015); National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare and Bulawayo (2014).