



Emma Talbot
In the End, the Beginning
17 September 2023 – 26 May 2024
Kesselhaus

Curator: Kathrin Becker

British artist Emma Talbot poses existential questions in her paintings, drawings, sculptures and installations. In these “catastrophic times” marked by ecological and political instability, as noted by Belgian philosopher Isabelle Stengers, Talbot emphasises the imperative of forging a hopeful new beginning to shape a future that is truly worth living for. “Through my work I advocate change,” says the artist. She is equally fascinated by the fleeting nature of human existence and the lost cultures of the past, as well as women’s wisdom that has been denied and obscured for centuries.

Archaic voices are reawakened in the site-specific installation Emma Talbot conceived for the 20-metre-high Kesselhaus at the KINDL. With her sweeping painted silk hangings, sculptural ensembles and suspended objects, the artist conjures a tempestuous spectacle that evokes banshees rising from the bogs and female seers imploring us to unite for shared aspirations. Across cultures, figures such as furies, sirens, harpies, oracles, witches, ghosts and spirits have the power to disrupt our conventional world in unsettling ways, offering us glimpses into other realities. For Talbot, these beings serve as helpful harbingers that warn of the ecological and political crises of our time. Weaving a narrative of both urgency and healing, they point to alternative paths that could pave the way for a more positive future.

Part of Berlin Art Week 2023

Emma Talbot (* 1969 in Stourbridge, lives in London and Italy)

Selected solo exhibitions: Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2023); Beiqiu Museum, Nanjing (2023); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2022); DCA Dundee (2021); KM21 / GEM Art Museum, The Hague (2019).

Selected group exhibitions: STUK, Leuven (2023); K21, Dusseldorf (2023); Venice Biennale (2022); Hayward Gallery, London (2020); Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (2018).