

belvedere

## CARLONE CONTEMPORARY RENATE BERTLMANN

Upper Belvedere  
20 February to 30 January 2021



Exhibition view *Carlone Contemporary*. *Renate Bertlmann*, Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

### Contact

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## CARLONE CONTEMPORARY

### RENATE BERTLMANN

Upper Belvedere  
20 February to 30 August, 2020

As part of the *Carlone Contemporary* series, in 2020 the Belvedere presents the work of multimedia artist Renate Bertlmann for the Austrian pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2019: a field of red knife-roses. The luscious flowers, made of Murano glass, contain razor-sharp surgical blades in their buds.

Stella Rollig, CEO of the Belvedere: *"Moving into the Belvedere's Baroque rooms is Renate Bertlmann, one of Austria's feminist pioneers. Her installation for Venice has a completely different effect within the ambience of the Baroque as compared to the modernist pavilion; in the interior, under historical frescoes, as opposed to southern daylight. A discovery for everyone, whether they saw the work at the Biennale or not."*

Renate Bertlmann participated in the 58th Venice Biennale from May to November 2019. In collaboration with curator Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein, she created a multi-part installation for the Austrian pavilion titled *Discordo ergo sum* ("I dissent, therefore I am"). At Carlone Hall she is now presenting a variation of the installation, a carefully laid out grid of 286 knife-roses.

Curator Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein: *"In dialog with Ovid's Metamorphoses, the knife-rose garden delivers a conceptual space that expresses the transformative potential of difference and ambivalence as a counterpoint to power. Gardens are never innocent. Classically, formal gardens are the embodiment of that which has been brought under*

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*control. Renate Bertlmann's garden grid skillfully subordinates and removes this logic.  
Nothing is tamed here; it is the opposite."*

For the exhibition at the Upper Belvedere, the Austrian artist developed a new version of her contribution to the Biennale, one which makes reference to the Baroque setting. Red-bladed roses, rigorously arranged in a grid pattern, adorn the lavishly frescoed hall of the palace. The duality of fragility and aggression mirrors the pairs of opposites – such as light and shadow – found in the Baroque frescos by Carlo Innocenzo Carlone. The individual flowers are made of transparent glass the color of coagulated blood, forcefully pierced by shiny scalpels. Or did perhaps the flowers give birth to the razor-sharp blades? Tenderness/violence, softness/hardness, desire/abhorrence, sensuality/aggression, vagina/penis – the ambivalences of life, which are the driving force behind the relentless cruelties of our everyday life, overlap and are reversed and infused with a sense of agonizing beauty.

As a key figure within the Austrian feminist avant-garde and a pioneer of international performance art, Renate Bertlmann has developed a distinct oeuvre since the 1970s. Born in Vienna in 1943, she studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Oxford in 1962/63 and subsequently at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, where she then continued to work as a lecturer in artistic techniques. Influenced by the feminist movement of the 1970s, she was an active member of IntAkt (International Action Group of Women Artists), among others. Renate Bertlmann has continuously dealt with virulent social issues through her art, which includes film, photography, collage, drawing, performance, object art, and installation. In 2007, she was awarded the Vienna Prize for Fine Arts, and in 2017, the Great Austrian State Prize. Works by Renate Bertlmann can be found at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Tate Modern in London, the mumok in Vienna, and the LENTOS Art Museum in Linz. Renate Bertlmann lives and works in Vienna.

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## EDITION

The edition OHNE TITEL, 2020 accompanies the exhibition

Edition 30 + 5 A.P.

Hot foil stamping on white Japanese paper, dimensions: 210 x 297 mm, framed, signed, dated, numbered

Price: € 720 including tax

Available from 19 February 2020 at the Belvedere or at: [editionen@belvedere.at](mailto:editionen@belvedere.at)

## CARLONE CONTEMPORAY

The *Carlone Contemporary* series presents contemporary works in the Carlone Hall of the Upper Belvedere in six-month intervals. From the frescoed ancient world of the deities Apollo and Diana to the present day, contemporary artists bridge the Baroque pictorial program with new artistic stances.

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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Renate Bertlmann (\*1943 in Vienna) studied at the Academy of Arts in Oxford in 1962/63 and subsequently at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna until 1970. After graduating in Painting and Restoration, she was a lecturer at the Department of Conservation and Technology at the Academy until 1982. She lives and works in Vienna. In her work Bertlmann explores representations of roles and bodies, questioning gender relationships by discussing subjects like pornography, sexuality, violence, Eros, and hierarchy. Her works are particularly characterized by a provocative, ironic approach. She has been a member of the Vienna Secession since 1993 and a coeditor of the magazine [sic!] – Forum für feministische Gartengarten since 1994. In 2007, she received the Prize of the City of Vienna and in 2017, the Grand Austrian State Prize.

### Exhibitions (Selection)

- 1973 Der Mensch und die Stadt, Künstlerhaus, Vienna
- 1975 MAGNA Feminismus. Kunst und Kreativität, curated by VALIE EXPORT, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna
- 1976 URVAGINA, Galleria Tommaseo, Trieste
- 1978 Art-Museum des Geldes, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
- 1981 Fotobiennale Secession, Vienna
- 1982 Stimmen der Sehnsucht, Galerie Apropos, Lucerne
- 1983 Andere Avant-Garde, Festival, Brucknerhaus Linz  
Berührungen, Palais Liechtenstein, Feldkirch
- 1993 SCHNEEGESTÖBER-FLITTER(S)TÜRME, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna
- 2008 INTAKT-Pionierinnen (INTAKT. The Female Pioneers), Fotogalerie Wien, Vienna
- 2009 VIDEORAMA. Kunstclips aus Österreich, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
- 2010 Donna: Avanguardia Femminista Negli Anni '70 dalla Sammlung Verbund di Vienna,  
Gnam, Rome  
Ich ist ein anderer (I Is Another), Landesmuseum Niederösterreich, St.Pölten

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- 2013 Mujer. La vanguardia feminista de los años '70. Obras de la Sammlung Verbund, Viena, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid
- 2014 Aktionistinnen (Female Actionists), Kunsthalle Krems, Forum Frohner, Krems  
Burning Down the House, 10th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea  
Self-Timer Stories, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León  
WOMAN. The Feminist Avant-Garde of the 1970s. Works from the Sammlung Verbund Vienna, BOZAR, Brussels
- 2015 Rabenmütter. Zwischen Kraft und Krise (Mother of the Year. Between Empowerment and Crisis: Images of Motherhood from 1900 to Today), Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz  
The EY Exhibition. The World Goes Pop, Tate Modern, London  
Feministische Avantgarde. Kunst der 1970er-Jahre aus der Sammlung Verbund, Wien, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg  
Die achtziger Jahre (The Eighties), MUSA, Vienna
- 2016 Renate Bertlmann. Amo Ergo Sum, Sammlung Verbund, Vienna  
Renate Bertlmann. Two Climaxes, Richard Saltoun Gallery, London
- 2017 Angst, Fotohof, Salzburg  
Sex Work: Feminist Art & Radical Politics, Richard Saltoun Gallery, Frieze, London  
RENATE BERTELMANN – MARIA LASSNIG, Sotheby's Gallery, London  
WOMAN. Feminist Avant-Garde of the 1970s, Sammlung Verbund, mumok, Vienna
- 2018 Zeig mir deine Wunde, Dom Museum, Wien  
Die 90er Jahre. Subversive Imaginationen, Wien Museum MUSA, Wien  
DRAG: Self-portraits and Body Politics, Hayward Gallery, London  
#It's You Too, Galerie Steinek, Vienna  
Flagge zeigen – Farbe bekennen II, WUK, Wien

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Exhibition Title</b>	Carlone Contemporary. Renate Bertlmann
<b>Exhibition Duration</b>	20 February to 30 August, 2020
<b>Venue</b>	Upper Belvedere
<b>Exhibits</b>	1
<b>Curator</b>	Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein
<b>Exhibition Management</b>	Eszter Vályi
<b>Contact</b>	Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-0 <a href="http://www.belvedere.at">www.belvedere.at</a>
<b>Guided Tours</b>	T + 43 1 795 57-134   M <a href="mailto:public@belvedere.at">public@belvedere.at</a>
<b>Opening Hours</b>	Daily 10am to 6pm Friday 10am to 9pm
<b>Regular Entry</b>	€ 16,- (Upper Belvedere)
<b>Press Contact</b>	Belvedere Press Office Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-177 M <a href="mailto:press@belvedere.at">press@belvedere.at</a>

*Complimentary images can be downloaded for press purposes at [www.belvedere.at/press](http://www.belvedere.at/press).*

*#CarloneContemporary*

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