CARLONE CONTEMPORARY

RENATE BERTLMANN

Upper Belvedere
20 February to 30 January 2021

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

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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
控制。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 Innozenco 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.
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

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY

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.
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 Gangarten 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 Tommaso, 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
      Berührung, 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
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
RENATE BERTLMANN – MARIA LASNNIG, 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

Exhibition Title  
Carlone Contemporary. Renate Bertimann

Exhibition Duration  
20 February to 30 August, 2020

Venue  
Upper Belvedere

Exhibits  
1

Curator  
Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein

Exhibition Management  
Eszter Vályi

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Opening Hours  
Daily 10am to 6pm  
Friday 10am to 9pm

Regular Entry  
€ 16,- (Upper Belvedere)

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