

PRESS RELEASE



GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
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INNOCENCE Rudi Bodmeier

Vernissage: Thu. 22.11.2018, 7 pm
Exhibition: 23.11.2018 – 12.01.2019
Opening Hours: Tue–Saturday, 12–6 pm
Location: Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany
Introduction: Klaus Mecherlein, M.A
Director Atelier Augustinum & Eward-Archiv

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is showing figurines by artist **Rudi M. Bodmeier** from Atelier Augustinum in Munich.

He combines elements from the worlds of animals, plants and things with drastic exaggeration to bizarre hybrid creatures. Their ample women's bodies are being put into snug costumes, dresses or uniforms. Attributes with a female connotation like breasts or hips are being overemphasized or altered from their "natural" shapes. Their poses, varying from coqueting to elegant, remind us of mannequins and fashion photography. The women are virtually depersonalized and mutate into alien, dangerous creatures. His caricaturing collages have the potential to irritate and unsettle. They also allow us to critically revise our image of femininity shaped by mass media. Klaus Mecherlein, who, as the director of Atelier Augustinum, has been working for years with the artist, speaks about a "mystery of pupation and transformation, banishment and otherness" an "aura of the unredeemed", which surrounds these "hybrids of woman and animal, woman and plant, woman and object."

His mostly 40-60cm sized figures are being created by the artist in a very time-consuming process. Originating from a small scale draft, a pencil drawing or a collage made from photocopies, they are being executed by the artist using black fineliner and coloured pencils on solid paper. The drawing is then being transferred to a bookbinder's grey cardboard and precisely cut out with a carpet knife. Finally, the flat objects are being completely covered with a transparent synthetic foil as if to make them more durable.

Bodmeier has exhibited many times, among other at Museum of Everything, London, Direct Art Gallery Düsseldorf and has produced his figurines as commissioned works for the TamS Theater, Munich. He has been working for over 40 years at his art and since 2009 full-time at the Atelier Augustinum. The artist was born May 1961 in Munich. Since he was four years old, he spent most of his life in different institutions and shelters for people with disabilities. With thirteen he was committed to the psychiatric ward for roughly one year. Later he worked in sheltered workshops for people with disabilities at Stiftung Attl near Wasserburg in Bavaria, where he was mostly working in metal processing.

Trägerverein:

PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Str. 27
10117 Berlin

Vorstand:

Carolin Rosner, Ralph Stabbert,
Wolfram Voigtländer,
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann

Spendenkonto:

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
BIC: BFSWDE33BER
IBAN:DE42100205000001082600

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During this time his artistic oeuvre of approx. two thousand works was mainly being created in his free time and secretly, as his themes and way of working were being sanctioned, defamed and destroyed by the institutions.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric disorders or mental disabilities. We are convinced that the particular perceptions these artists have allow them to create art of high authenticity. With our exhibitions we present works by "outsiders" as a crucial part of contemporary art and aim to foster discourse within the established art world. Being located at the Kunsthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery presents works by people with disabilities right in the centre of Berlin's art scene. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the non-profit federation **PS-Art e.V. Berlin** – a network of different institutions.

For its five-year jubilee the gallery published a chronicle comprising all exhibition catalogues from 2008-13. In 2014 we took part at the **Outsider Art Fair** in Paris, the world's leading fair in this field. The same year saw the nomination of five artists from the network of PS-Art e.V. Berlin for the international art prize **euward**. Since 2015 the gallery is a member of the **lvbg**, the Galleries Association of Berlin (Landesverband Berliner Galerien).

For further information and images please contact us:

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Fräulein Dibbels Dackel, 2008,
colored pencil, fineliner on cardboard



Oberschwester Eva-Maria Salat Steckrübe,
colored pencil, fineliner on, 92x41



Die eitle Froschkönigin,
colored pencil, fineliner on cardboard, 38x29



Gräfin Margret von Ratz,
colored pencil, fineliner on cardboard, 43x22

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