

# **GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER**

**SHEILA HICKS Cosmic Vibrations**

**28 MAY – 21 AUG 2021**

Opening: Friday, May 28, 2021 / 11 am – 7 pm  
Domgasse 6, 1010 Vienna

The Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder is opening a new exhibition space in Vienna, which will be inaugurated with installation works by the American artist Sheila Hicks.

The gallery will open the 65 square meters exhibition space on the ground floor of the listed "Kleiner Bischofshof" (Small Bishop's Court) in Domgasse 6, located in close proximity to the main, renowned gallery at Grünangergasse 1. The idiosyncratic space, structured by arches and niches, conveys a baroque-like modernity that contrasts with the spatial idea of the "White Cube". Like a cabinet of curiosities, different genres and perspectives can unfold – special series of works as well as significant sculptural approaches and installations. Sheila Hicks will be the first artist to show her work at Domgasse 6. The artist was recently honored with a major retrospective at the MAK – Museum für angewandte Kunst.

## **Julia Garimorth about Sheila Hicks**

Sheila Hicks, born in Nebraska in 1934, has lived and worked in Paris since 1964. She began as a painter, but soon broadened the scope of her artistic output using soft materials and drawing inspiration from ancestral art, particularly pre-Columbian. Her wrapped, woven, embroidered, knotted and twisted works are made of fibres both natural and man-made and systematically transcend strictly pictorial or sculptural genres as they assimilate the open space.

The artist deploys all manner of resources in her experiments. It is her belief that each material speaks its own language, defined by properties such as color, thickness, and haptic quality. By merging, within the same work, highly disparate and even unexpected color tones, textures and materials, she initiates a conversation in which each voice has its own place, a conversation in which we, too, are invited to take part. Indeed, she invokes our most elementary visual and tactile experiences, those we acquire in the very first years of our existence. Based essentially on the physical and the sensory, this primitive experience constitutes a resource inherent in humanity, and therefore universal, even if it is most often buried, not to say repressed, by society. Both steeped in this pre-conscious inner world (founded on ancient reminiscences) and deeply inspired by nature, which is ubiquitous within her oeuvre, Sheila Hicks's works allow a multitude of infinitely poetic associations.

In creating the *Cosmic Vibrations* installation for the inauguration of the new space at the Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Hicks has adapted to the specificities of the location, as is her wont. Perhaps she is also responding more generally to the onerous context of our times, opening up paths of sensitivity we may have lost. What is certain is that Sheila Hicks encourages us to break free of the confinement of our individualistic world by affording us access to the most immediate and sensitive qualities of our universe.

SHEILA HICKS was born in Hastings, Nebraska, in 1934. She lives and works in Paris.

Solo exhibitions (selections): 2020 MAK-Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; 2019 Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; 2018 Centre Pompidou, Paris; 2015 Hayward Gallery, London; 2011 Boijmans van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam; The Museum of Decorative Arts (UPM), Prague; 1999 Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, Virginia Beach; 1994 Textile Museet, Borås, Sweden; 1974 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; 1963 Art Institute of Chicago.

Collections (selection): Centre Pompidou, Paris; Denver Art Museum; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris; Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Zurich; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Gallery, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

JULIA GARIMORTH is chief curator at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. In 2018 she curated the exhibition „Panta Rhei“ with Sheila Hicks and Judit Reigl at Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder.