

Solo show Ashley Hans Scheirl

For Art Basel Hong Kong, Loevenbruck presents a solo show by Ashley Hans Scheirl, with a display of new paintings.

Ashley Hans Scheirl, born in Salzburg, in 1956, studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and received her*his MA in Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins College in London in 2003. From 2006 to the beginning of 2022, Scheirl held a professorship for Contextual Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Scheirl's artistic practice began in the late 1970s, for which she*he has employed a multitude of different media. She*he went on to dedicate the next twenty years to the moving image. With more than fifty films and the transgender cult classic *Dandy Dust*, Scheirl has been one of the pioneers of the queer movement in the arts. Since the mid-1990s, painting has taken centre stage in her*his practice, a type of painting that viewers experience as installations – which is to say in its incorporation of architecture, contexts, objects, video loops and, not least, by the way the visitors move through them.

Questioning social norms and relationships and developing an approach to one's own identity and sexuality are at the center of Ashley Hans Scheirl's life art. In his*her often multimedia works, the intertwining of biography and art, the question of one's own identity, and crossing boundaries of gender and genre are options. Having grown up as Angela, she decided on her fortieth birthday to take testosterone and from then on referred to herself as Hans and *he*. As a critique of current attributions of identity and corresponding discourses, Scheirl took her sixtieth birthday as the occasion to adopt the first name Ashley and to refer to herself as *she*. Without trying to go from A to B, Ashley Hans Scheirl performatively chose the (anti-)identity transgender. The artist, who achieved international fame already in the late 1980s for her experimental film and video works, recently made highly regarded contributions to the Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale and documenta 14 in Kassel and Athens.¹

Together with Jakob Lena Knebl she*he represented Austria at the 2022 Venice Biennale, where they conceived a stage-like installation, entitled *Invitation of the Soft Machine and Her Angry Body Parts*, in which they unfurled their entire artistic cosmos – from paintings, sculptures, textile works, photographs, text and video to a fashion collection and a publication in the form of a magazine.

From October 2023 to January 2024, Jakob Lena Knebl and Ashley Hans Scheirl will present their first monographic exhibition in France, at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, a show curated by Daria de Beauvais. Later in the year 2024, this exhibition will be presented at Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, Germany.

About Galerie Loevenbruck

Created in 2001, Loevenbruck gallery presents works by contemporary French and international artists.

The gallery has also participated in the rediscovery of historical works.

Loevenbruck notably represents the Estates of Polish sculptor Alina Szapocznikow and French painters Michel Parmentier and Gilles Aillaud.

Loevenbruck regularly provides support to institutions, in France and abroad, for the production of exhibitions and associated publications.

Since 2002, Editions Loevenbruck publishes artist books, monographs and essays.

Press Inquiries

Lola Ector | Communication | lola@loevenbruck.com | 0033 1 82 28 38 20

Sales Inquiries

Alexandra Schillinger | Director | alexandra@loevenbruck.com | 0033 1 82 28 38 21

1. Sandro Drolsch, "Pictorial Bodies Go for: Genital Economy Posing" in *Ashley Hans Scheirl*, 2020, Graz, Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien, p. 76-78.