

Press Release

Pipilotti Rist. Prickling Goosebumps & A Humming Horizon

Hauser & Wirth New York, 22nd Street
9 November 2023 – 13 January 2024

Luhring Augustine Chelsea, 24th Street
18 November 2023 – 3 February 2024



New York...In November 2023, self-described ‘wild and friendly’ Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist will present a selection of new and recent sculptural works and projections in ‘Prickling Goosebumps & a Humming Horizon,’ a major two-part exhibition opening in Chelsea. The exhibition, which will take place simultaneously at Hauser & Wirth’s 22nd Street location and Luhring Augustine’s 24th Street location, has been conceived by the artist as a multisensory experience for visitors. In these complementary presentations, Rist will explore interior and exterior—internal and external physical and psychological spaces—with Luhring Augustine reimagined as an expansive, shared ‘backyard’ and Hauser & Wirth transformed into a whimsical ‘collective living room.’

At each location visitors will be greeted with an artistic gesture on the façade: the work ‘Textile Simultaneity’ at Luhring Augustine and ‘Innocent Collection’ at Hauser & Wirth.

At Luhring Augustine Chelsea on West 24th Street, visitors will be taken on a journey through an expansive ‘backyard’ environment animated by sounds, colors and textures. In the entrance gallery they encounter new small-scale works—a landscape painting, ‘Visual Cortex Dolomites,’ and a rock sculpture, ‘Respect Scholarly Rock’—each of which is activated by hypnotic video projections. The main gallery is dominated by Rist’s spellbinding ‘Neighbors Without Fences’ (2020), a full-scale façade of a clapboard house, which is surrounded by a ‘courtyard’ filled with outdoor patio furniture and anchored by ‘The Patience’ (2016), a massive 1.5-ton boulder awash in the colors of a dynamic projection. A version of ‘Neighbors Without Fences’ debuted as a highlight in ‘Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor,’ Rist’s 2021-22 survey exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Each window of the clapboard façade contains a glowing screen displaying new videos made specifically for this exhibition; the works are from Rist’s ‘Peeping Freedom Shutters’ series (2020-2023), a group of unique video sculptures that pay homage to women’s rights activists whose fearless advocacy has opened windows onto the possibility of a more equitable world.

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The back gallery will present 'Big Skin' (2022), a version of which was first included in Rist's solo exhibition 'Behind Your Eyelid' at Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong. The installation's undulating, semi-translucent resin panels, or 'skins,' float cloud-like from the ceiling with video projections of real and animated galaxies and natural landscapes dancing across their surfaces. The resin material of these skins simultaneously absorbs and emits light, creating ghostly shadows across the walls and floor, transporting viewers into another dimension.

At Hauser & Wirth's West 22nd Street building, Rist will transform the entire street level space into a 'living room' painted in lush reds and vegetal greens. Here guests will discover single-channel sculptural video works, including many presented publicly for the first time. For each of these works, Rist has embedded a video into a found domestic object or piece of furniture—from 'Ich brenne für dich (I burn for you)' (2018), fashioned from an antique marble fireplace mantle to 'Über Stock und Stein (Over Hill and Dale)' (2023), which animates the interior of a vintage toy horse stable with different oscillating forms and colors. A new group of sculptures, together titled 'Metal Flake Milk Tooth' (2023), punctuates the space in an arrangement laying low across the gallery floor. With their furniture-like qualities—each form evokes yet subverts the familiar geometries of a chair or coffee table—these objects hew to Rist's longstanding fascination with the reflective and emotive potentials of light: constructed from fiberglass composite, the sculptures have been coated with metal flakes, airbrushed candy colors and clear lacquer that yield glittery, optically dynamic surfaces which defy capture by photography. 'Metal Flake Milk Tooth' thus happily demands that we experience it in three dimensions and be present in its space in order to engage its pleasures. Two new major video projections—'Welling Color Island East' (2023) and 'Welling Color Island West' (2023)—and the new moving light installation 'Petting Colors' (2023) complete Rist's interior adventure at Hauser & Wirth. Her richly colored projections swirl down from the ceiling onto carpet 'islands' occupied by cushioned seating areas for communal occupancy and immersion. The gently moving lights of 'Petting Colors' dance across the room to land upon visitors and connect them to one another as well as Rist's other works in situ, making members of the public active participants in her enchantments.

About the artist

Pipilotti Rist, a pioneer of spatial video art, was born in 1962 in Grabs in the Swiss Rhine Valley on the Austrian border and has been a central figure within the international art scene since the mid-1980s.

Astounding the art world with the energetic exorcistic statement of her now-famous single channel videos, such as 'I'm Not The Girl Who Misses Much' (1986) and 'Pickelporno' (1992), her artistic work has co-developed with technical advancements and in playful exploration of its new possibilities to propose footage resembling a collective brain. Through large video projections and digital manipulation, she has developed immersive installations that draw life from slow caressing showers of vivid color tones, like her works 'Sip My Ocean' (1996) and 'Worry Will Vanish' (2014).

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For Rist, showing vulnerability is a sign of strength on which she draws for inspiration. With her curious and lavish recordings of nature (to which humans belong as an animal), and her investigative editing, Rist seeks to justify the privileged position we are born with, simply by being human. Her installations and exhibition concepts are expansive, finding within the mind, senses and body the possibility for endless discovery and poetical invention. 'Pixel Forest' (2016), made from 3,000 LEDs hung on strings, resembles a movie screen that has exploded into the room, allowing viewers an immersive walk through 3-dimensional video. As she herself puts it, 'beside the energy-intensive exploration of the geographical world, pictures, films and sounds have been and are the spaces into which we can escape... The projector is the flamethrower, the space is the vortex and you are the pearl within.'

Since 1984, Rist has had countless solo and group exhibitions, and video screenings worldwide. Her recent solo exhibitions include the site-specific installation *Hand Me Your Trust* on the M+ Facade, Hong Kong (2023); *Behind Your Eyelid* at Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong (2022); *Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor* at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (The Museum of Contemporary Art), Los Angeles (2021–2022); *Your Eye Is My Island* at MoMAK (The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto) and Art Tower Mito (2021); *Åbn min Lysning* (Open my Glade) at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk (2019); *Sip My Ocean* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney (2017–2018); *Pixel Forest* at New Museum, New York (2016 – 2017); and *Your Saliva is My Diving Suit of the Ocean of Pain* at Kunsthaus Zürich (2016), all resulted in record-breaking attendance numbers for each institution.

Carbon savings: Part of this exhibition was shipped by sea from the UK. Transporting by sea versus air resulted in a carbon savings of **34.47 tCO₂e** (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent).

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Courtesy the artist, Hauser & Wirth and Luhring Augustine

Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbor, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, 2021 - 2022

Photo: Zak Kelley

Het leven verspillen aan jou <Wasting Life On You (in a positive sense)>, 2021, permanent video installation, Het Depot Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam

Photo: Studio Klaud & Studio Rist

Het Leven Verspillen Aan Jou <Wasting Life On You>, 2021, permanent video installation, Het Depot Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam

Photo: Ossip van Duivenbode

Projection as a Color Carpet as a Color Shower, 2023, video stills sketches in progress