

Heike Kabisch

“God made me extremely creative (in all that I do)”

Solo exhibition at Chert, Berlin

Opening: September 17, 2014 at 7 pm

Until November 29, 2014

Chert is pleased to present the third solo exhibition of German artist Heike Kabisch in the gallery space.

Kabisch's aesthetically ironic figuration of humans takes the physical body as an allegory of our society; using the self to explore mankind's manners and paradoxes. The introduction of printed images, sound, and videos – in relation to her sculptures and installations – marks a new direction in the artist's production. With the use of images and sounds taken from Internet sources, the artist folds new media into her discourse, reflecting on the broad effects technology has on society.

The new-age vernacular of Internet culture becomes a sort of inspiration and fascination for the artist. Her interest in web images lies in the juxtaposition of wellness and nature against their online virtuality. Photoshop redesigns of a beautiful night sky, with bright stars and unpolluted air, and videos of a relaxing, idyllic paradise are in stark contrast to the reality of our modern, technological life, where nature and wellness are a wish, achieved only on screen. These videos advertise a pseudo-spiritual ambition, which leaves the artist's figures alienated in their physical surroundings.

The background images relate to consumer culture, everyday life, the multiplied “poor image,” and superficially ordinary situations – a topic at the core of Kabisch's research. They directly target the frustration of everyday life, offering a shortcut to an alternative. This “holy promise” is ironically explicated in the sound piece “God made me extremely creative (in all that I do),” where a bizarre, robotic voice repeatedly utters the same sentences over and over again; these affirmations are supposed to soothe you whilst sleeping, and subconsciously motivate your daily routine. “Routine” also preoccupies one of the sculptures which accompany the voice: she rotates over and over on herself, self-reflecting, repeating her own boredom.

“God made me extremely creative (in all that I do)” comments on the dispersal and accumulation of images, sounds, and information; in digital reality the natural “body” is lost and uncontrolled. Kabisch's sculptures look for shelter in a pixelated surrogate of calm and relaxation.

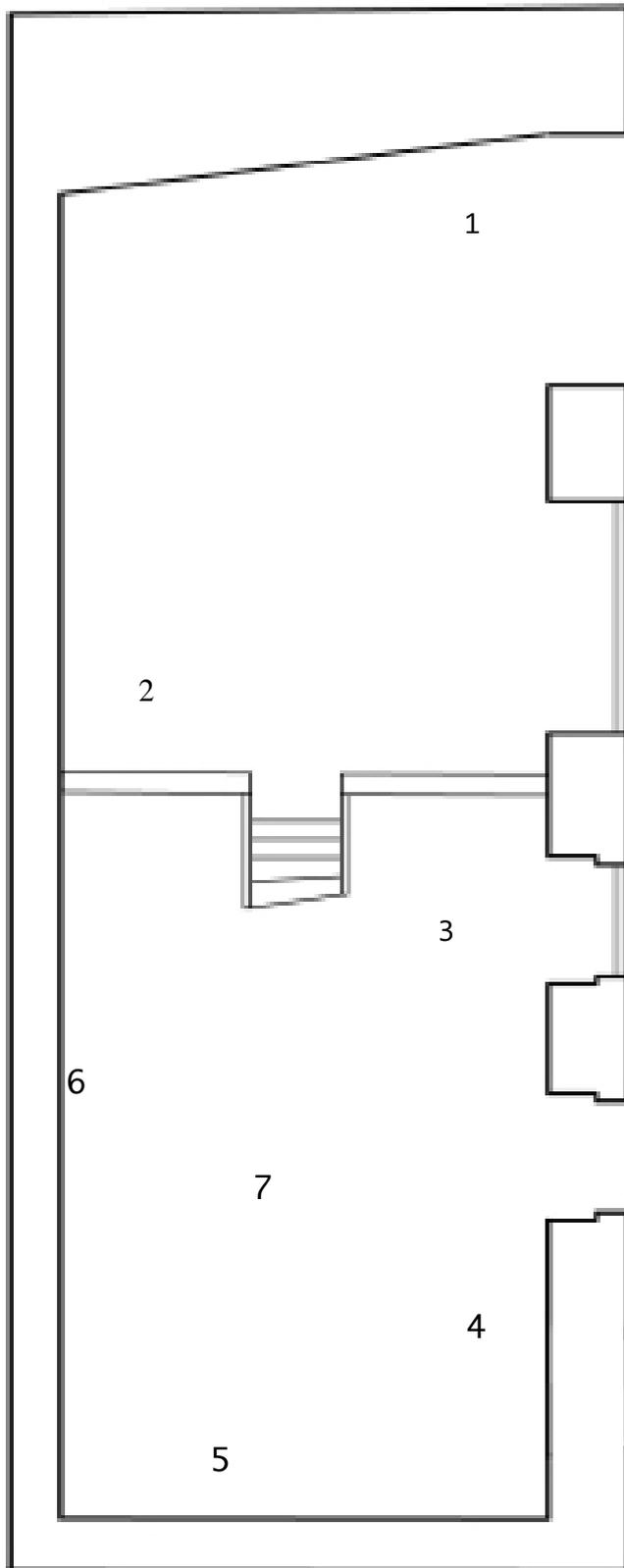
Heike Kabisch was born in 1978 in Münster. She lives and works in Berlin. She studied at Kunstakademie Münster, with Katharina Fritsch and graduated in Glasgow at the Glasgow School of Art. Her work has been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions in Europe, including locations such as Wewerka-Pavillion, Münster; Nomas Foundation, Rome; MACRO – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Rome; Kunstverein Langenhagen; Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem; Tramway, Glasgow; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Kunstverein Mönchengladbach; Kunsthalle Bremen; The New Art Gallery Walsall, Birmingham; Club Row, London; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Kunstmuseum Baden, Solingen, among others.

**CHERT.**

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- 1 "Smile", 2014, printed poster, jesmonite, iron, paint, neon light, 159x244x47 cm.
- 2 "Urania, Violet Fortune", 2014, jesmonite, bronze powder, iron, plaster, neon light, 212x61x113 cm.
- 3 "Missy at Paradise Fall", 2014, copper pole, neon light, plaster sculpture, 340x33x33 cm.
- 4 "Tropical Petra (Just put YouTube on continuous play and let nature relax you)", plaster, yoga mattress, youtube video, monitor, 48x124x66 cm.
- 5 "If you go Bold, I go Bolder", 2014, jesmonite, neon light, paint, 52x32x14.
- 6 "God made extremely creative (in all that I do)", 2014, jesmonite, neon light, brass plate, motor, 111x101x107 cm.
- 7 "Trapassata", 2014, plaster, neon, iron, 201x181x36 cm.