

Heike Kabisch
Deep down into the Ditch

Opening reception: March 10, 2012
Chert
Skalitzerstr. 68
10997 Berlin

Chert is delighted to present the second solo exhibition of German artist Heike Kabisch (1978).

In recent years Kabisch has been producing sculptures and installations that return to classic figuration and representation by creating her subjects based on real studio models. Rather than using abstraction and symbolism to reflect on reality, she reverses the process, creating familiar scenes evoking the uncomfortable futility of daily realities.

Exemplifying Kabisch's practice is the piece "Under the Umbrella" (2012); a work that cites a fountain she discovered in the small southern German town of Markdorf. Unlike the idealized romantic figures in the fountain, Kabisch creates characters that are inherently portrayed full of tension and contradictions. Leaving the materials intentionally unadorned, the complete work displaces the idea of the 19th century traditional village fountain into the now.

Kabisch's work opposes contemporary aesthetics, challenging public opinion and understanding of sculpture. Using one of the more classic and direct artistic mediums, her sculptures open up a discussion against generally accepted artistic languages.

Heike Kabisch was born in Münster in 1978.

After graduating from Kunstakademie Münster with Katharina Fritsch she attended a two year Master programme in Fine Arts in Glasgow.

Recently her work has been exhibited at Temporary Gallery, Cologne, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, Kunstmuseum Baden Solingen, KIT - Düsseldorf, Tramway, Glasgow and Frieze Art Fair, Frame Section, with Chert, Berlin.

Kabisch lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Heike Kabisch

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In Heike Kabisch's sculptures, a mixture of sensuality, power, elegance and others enchanting images of everyday life values, are portrayed on an absurd, cruel and extremely realistic stage.

Contrasted by the overmuch seriousness of the characters' expressions, the artist models an ironic impact on the scene through her manufactured bodies, destroying the aleatory ideas they refer to and pointing directly at the absurdity of this livid imagery.

Kabisch's installations are in a way comparable to classic fairy tales: they are tragic, dramatic (although never theatrical), symbolic everywhere and thoroughly soaked in traditions, healthy values and useful warnings.

Her materials and expressions melt together to create a theatre of absurdities in which we can recognize many of our aspirations and desires. This chaos of human fears and anxieties is frozen into a single image, simultaneously ironic, grave, doubtful and uncertain.

Her sculptures float between attraction and repulsion. Provocative, cheesy and impudent, the characters' attitudes spring from a meditative silence waiting for a fearless, proud and heavy expression; we may meet an elegant minstrel next to a sorrowful little girl, staying together in this tragic-comic atmosphere.

Heike Kabisch's home-made universe looks at our ground and its reality, bringing out the absurd, clumsy, inner beauty of human beings.

Heike Kabisch

Born in 1978 in Münster. Lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Education:

2006-2008 Glasgow School of Art, Master of Fine Art Programme, Glasgow.

2005 Meisterschülerin. Kunstakademie Münster, with Katharina Fritsch.

Solo Exhibitions:

2012

Deep down into the Ditch, Chert, Berlin.

2010

Frieze Art Fair, Frame Section, with Chert, London.

“A House. A Light. A Hole.” Chert, Berlin.

2009

“Do not go gentle into that good night”, Projekt Hafenweg 22, Münster.

2007

“Snowy-White, Rosy-Red, Will You Beat Your Lover Dead?”, Wewerka-Pavillion, Münster.

2006

Reimann le Bègue Gallery, Düsseldorf.

Group Exhibitions:

2011

“RUNDBLICK 2011”, Schöne Wahrnehmung Positionen junger Kunst - Curated by Gertrud Peters, Temporary Gallery, Cologne.

“Sunbeam in the Glasshouse”, Ehemaliges Amerikanisches Generalkonsulat, Düsseldorf.

“U-Turn”, presentation at ArteBa, contemporary art fair, Buenos Aires.

“AUSGETRÄUMT”, Städtische Galerie Markdorf, Kunstverein Markdorf e.V.

“MAGIC AFFAIRS”, Contemporaries Meet Magic Realists, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem.

“That which doesn't kill us is often made of foam”, Jonathan Binet, Kasia Fudakowski, Heike Kabisch, Siôn Parkinson, Erik van der Weijde, Chert, Berlin.

“inter deum et diabolum semper musica est”, MINKEN & PALME, Berlin.

2010

Drinnen & Draussen, Chert, Berlin.

Berlin - Paris. Un échange de galeries, “Petrit Halilaj, Heike Kabisch, Carla Scott Fullerton”, Galerie Carlos Cardenas Gallery, Paris, with Chert, Berlin.

2009

“broken blossoms”, Heike Kabisch, Michael Koch, Haufekonzept, Cologne.

“couples and relations”, Drei Raum für Gegenwartskunst, Köln.

“63. Bergische Kunstausstellung, Bergischer Kunstpreis 2009”, Kunstmuseum Baden Solingen.

“63. Bergische Kunstausstellung”, Städtische Galerie Remscheid.

“Summit Meeting, Young Sculpture from Switzerland and Germany”, KIT - Düsseldorf.

2008

“Le bonheur en été”, Reimann le Bègue Gallery, Düsseldorf.

“And there it goes”, ArtNews Gallery, Berlin.

“Flock”, Bezalel Gallery, Tel Aviv.

Degree show Glasgow School of Art, Tramway, Glasgow.

2007

“Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2007”, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Birmingham, Club Row, London, Cornerhouse, Manchester.

“Weirding and the uncanny”, Newberry Gallery, Glasgow.

Lowsalt Gallery, Glasgow.

Mackintosh Gallery, GSA, Glasgow.

2006

Kunstsalon Berlin

“Die Windmühle aus dem südlichen Teil des Jenseits”, Kunstverein Mönchengladbach.

2005

“Förderpreisausstellung”, Ausstellungshalle zeitgenössischer Kunst, Münster.

“MUSE HEUTE?” Inspirationsquellen aktueller Kunst, Kunsthalle Bremen.

2004

“Leere X Vision – coming people”, Ausstellung im Stadtraum Herford/MARTa Herford.

Selected group show Cusanuswerk, Kunstverein Gelsenkirchen e.V.

2003

“dasgrünetelefon”, Kunstverein Gelsenkirchen e.V.

Collections:

Nomas Foundation, Rome, Italy.

Vergez Collection, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Kunst aus Nordrhein-Westfalen, Aachen, Germany.

Awards:

2011

Arbeitsstipendium Stiftung Kunstfonds

2009

Bergischer Kunstpreis

Linklaters Atelierstipendium

2006-2008

Stipendium der Scottish Award Agency for Scotland

Bibliography:

2011

“Schöne Wahrnehmung. Positionen junger Kunst”, exhibition catalogue, Temporary Gallery Cologne.
Olaf Salié (ed.): “Rising. Young Artists to Keep an eye on”.
“Ungeschminkt”, exhibition catalogue, Kunstverein Markdorf.
“Sunbeam in the Glasshouse”, exhibition catalogue, Verein 701, Ehemaliges Amerikanisches Generalkonsulat, Düsseldorf.

2010

Frieze Art Fair, Yearbook, fair catalogue, text by Kirsty Bell, October 2010.
“Heike Kabisch, works 2005-2010”, published by Chert, October 2010, 500 copies.
“Drinnen & Draussen”, exhibition catalogue, published by Chert & Motto, Berlin July 2010.

2009

“Younger Than Jesus/ Artist Directory, The essential handbook to the future of art”, collected by the curatorial team at the New Museum, New York.
63. Bergische Kunstaussstellung, exhibition catalogue, Kunstmuseum Baden.
“Gipfeltreffen, Junge Kunst aus der Schweiz und aus Deutschland”, KIT Kunst im Tunnel.

2007

“Bloomberg newcontemporaries 2007”, exhibition catalogue, with comments of the Selectors: Nigel Cooke, Michael Landy, Linda Norden, London.

2006

“Windmühle aus dem südlichen Teil des Jenseits”, exhibition catalogue, Kunstverein Mönchengladbach, mit Text von Matthias Winzen.
Thomas Kuhn: “Satelliten mit eigener Schwerkraft”, in: Kunstforum International, Vol. 183, p.427.