

Heidi Bucher: The Site of Memory

April 25—June 15, 2019

501 West 24th Street, New York

@lehmannmaupin | #heidibucher

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 25, 6-8 PM

Public Talk: Friday, April 26, 6-8PM



Bett (Bed), 1975, latex, textile, and mother of pearl pigment, 86.61 x 62.99 inches, 220 x 160 cm. © The Estate of Heidi Bucher. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, and Seoul.

New York, March 21, 2019—Lehmann Maupin is pleased to announce *Heidi Bucher: The Site of Memory*. Organized with the artist's estate, the exhibition marks Bucher's first solo exhibition since her landmark survey last year at Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London, and her first with the gallery. This exhibition features work from the mid-1970s through the 1980s and will include some of her most significant sculptures, including *Borg* (1976), a sculpture modeled on the entire cellar of Bucher's studio, and the first work to use her signature latex casting method, as well as works that will be exhibited for the first time in the United States, such as *Untitled (Door to the Herrenzimmer)* (1978) and *Elfenbornhaut* (1982). The gallery will host an opening reception on Thursday, April 25, from 6 to 8 PM, followed by a public talk on Friday, April 26, from 6 to 8 PM with Ziba Ardan, Founder and Director, Parasol unit; Simon Castets, Director, Swiss Institute; and Ruth Erickson, Mannion Family Curator, ICA Boston, moderated by Lehmann Maupin Curatorial Director, Anna Stothart at 501 West 24th Street.

Heidi Bucher (b. 1926 Winterthur, Switzerland; d. 1993, Brunnen, Switzerland) is best known for her innovative use of latex to cast large-scale architectural features, including entire buildings. Bucher referred to these castings as "skinnings" or "moultings," imbuing these captured spaces with animal or biological attributes. Her investigation of the physical boundaries between the body

and its surroundings aligns her with other feminist artists who were committed to exposing the complex relationship between women and the gendered, domestic environments to which they were often relegated. The works featured in this exhibition, produced during the 1970s and 1980s, were particularly significant as they marked both Bucher's return to Zurich after living in the U.S. and Canada, and the enfranchisement of Swiss women, who did not gain the right to vote until 1971. It was amid this personal and political transformation that Bucher developed her signature process. Coming from this era, alongside hallmarks of postminimalism such as the devoted site-specificity of artists like Richard Serra, the self-casting of artists like Alina Szapocznikow, and pioneering experimentation with new materials like plastics, latex, and fiberglass by Eva Hesse, Bucher's work can be understood as a unique amalgamation of this art historic period.

Over the course of her career, Bucher forged a practice anchored in familial, cultural, and architectural histories entwined with contemporary concerns around the boundaries between public and private space, feminine attributes, and the body. It was during the 1970s that Bucher began to embalm clothing and domestic objects in a mixture of latex and mother-of-pearl, preserving the objects as artifacts of their time and creating a surface that appeared skin-like in both color and texture. She primarily used women's clothing, such as nightdresses, and undergarments, which both signified her interest in metamorphosis and served as a critical response to the rigid gender restrictions she experienced growing up. By the end of the decade, Bucher had begun casting architectural structures—walls, windows, floors, or entire rooms—by spreading her latex mixture over large surfaces, allowing it to dry and harden, and then peeling it off; producing a skin that held elements of paint, rust, and dirt, as well as detailed architectural markings. These memory fragments represented both personal signification and a conceptual liberation from the patriarchal past. As Bucher poetically summarized:

Rooms are shells are skins.

Rooms are skins are surroundings.

Peeling off the skins are detachment from the past, from conventions and other compulsions.

During the years that followed, Bucher produced several major bodies of work based on personal domestic spaces and significant historical buildings in Switzerland and Lanzarote, Canary Islands, where she spent much of her later life. This exhibition will feature works from these locations, including some of her most significant clothing and domestic object works, such as *The Hatching of the Parquet Dragonfly* (1985) and *Bett (Bed)* (1975), in addition to a number of major architectural works "skinned" from her studio in Zurich, her ancestral home in Winterthur, the abandoned Bellevue mental health institution in Zurich, and her home and studio in Lanzarote. This exhibition exemplifies her expansive exploration of the materials of latex and mother-of-pearl as well as her interest in creating a visual embodiment of space and time. For Bucher, this method of working was not simply about recording the past, but illuminating a kind of multiverse that would combine past, present, and future inhabitants of the spaces she was drawn to.

About the artist

Heidi Bucher (b. 1926 Winterthur, Switzerland; d. 1993, Brunnen, Switzerland) attended the School of Applied Arts in Zurich from 1942 to 1946, specializing in fashion design. Solo exhibitions of her work have been organized at the Parasol unit, London (2018); the Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art, New York (2014); Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris (2013); Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich (2004); Kunstmuseum Thurgau, CH (1993); Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1972); Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada (1971); and Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York (1971) among others. Recent group exhibitions featuring her work include *An Intricate Weave*, Nottingham Contemporary, UK (2018); *The Everywhere Studio*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2017); *Women House*, la Monnaie de Paris, and National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C. (2017); *Viva Arte Viva*, 57th Venice Biennale, Italy (2017); *No Place Like Home*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2017); *Room*, Warwick Arts Centre, Warwick, UK (2017); and *Artists and Architecture, Variable Dimensions*, Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris (2015). Bucher's work is featured in numerous international public and private collections, including the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; KADIST, Paris and San Francisco; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland; Musée Jenisch Vevey, Switzerland; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland; and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

About Lehmann Maupin

Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin founded Lehmann Maupin in 1996. The gallery represents a diverse range of American artists, as well as artists and estates from across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. It has been instrumental in introducing numerous artists from around the world in their first New York exhibitions. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, the gallery prioritizes personal investigations and individual narratives. Lehmann Maupin prizes the distinct conceptual approaches that its artists offer on the essential matters that shape international culture today, including gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism. In 2013, with two locations in New York, significant interest in its artists abroad, and growing opportunities in new markets, Lehmann Maupin opened an additional location in Hong Kong, followed by Seoul in 2017. For more information on the gallery and its artists, visit www.lehmannmaupin.com.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Jennifer Steinkamp, *Impeach*, Through April 13, 536 West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Angel Oteor, *Milagros*, Through April 20, 501 West 24th Street, NEW YORK

Nicholas Hlobo, March 21—May 18, 74-18, Yulgok-ro 3-gil, SEOUL

Erwin Wurm, March 25—May 11, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: Workshop, Curated by Ian Berry, April 18—June 15, 536 West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

LEHMAN MAUPIN

For more information on Heidi Bucher or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923 or kathryn@lehmannmaupin.com.

lehmannmaupin.com

New York
501 West 24th Street
536 West 22nd Street
New York NY 10011
Telephone +1 212 255 2923

Hong Kong
407 Pedder Building
12 Pedder Street
Central Hong Kong
Telephone +852 2530 0025

Seoul
74-18 Yulgok-ro3-gil
Jongno-gu Seoul
Telephone +822 725 0094