

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2018

BASQUIAT BOOM FOR REAL

FEBRUARY 16–MAY 27, 2018

Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988) is acknowledged today as one of the most significant painters of the 20th century. More than 30 years after Basquiat's last exhibition in Germany, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting a major survey devoted to this American artist, organized in collaboration with the Barbican Centre, London. In the late 1970s, Basquiat teamed up with Al Diaz in New York to write graffiti statements across the city under the pseudonym SAMO©. Soon he was making drawings in his own blood, collaging baseball cards and postcards and painting on clothing, doors, furniture and on enormous improvised canvases. Basquiat collaborated with many artists of his time, most famously Andy Warhol and Keith Haring. He starred in the film *New York Beat* with Blondie's singer Debbie Harry and performed with his experimental band Gray. Basquiat created murals and installations for New York nightclubs like Area and in 1983 he produced the hip-hop record *Beat Bop* with K-Rob and Rammellzee. Having come of age in the post-punk underground scene in Lower Manhattan, Basquiat conquered the art world and gained widespread international recognition, becoming the youngest artist ever to participate in the *documenta* in Kassel in 1982. Basquiat's raw, vibrant imagery is matched by a startling erudition, seen in the fragments of bold, capitalized text that abound in his works. These bear witness to his encyclopedic interests and his experience as a young artist with no formal training. Featuring more than 100 works, the exhibition is the first to focus on Basquiat's relationship to music, text, film and television, placing his work within a broader cultural context. At the Schirn, an outstanding selection of paintings, drawings, notebooks and objects are presented from public and private collections, together with rare films and photographs, music and archival material, which capture the range and dynamism of Basquiat's practice over the years.

CURATORS Dr. Dieter Buchhart and Eleanor Nairne, Barbican Art Gallery, London

POWER TO THE PEOPLE POLITICAL ART NOW

MARCH 21–MAY 27, 2018

Democracy appears to be in crisis; the postdemocratic era has already dawned. The symptoms are manifold: populist leaders, fake news, autocratic backlash, totalitarian propaganda, neoliberalism. However, tendencies toward a repoliticized society have been palpable for some time now. And artists also appear to be increasingly under pressure to protest. They create works that they see as instruments of criticism and which expressly pursue political intentions. In a major exhibition the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt brings together artistic positions which can be read as seismographs of contemporary political activity. It focuses on fundamental issues and the examination of the phenomena and possibilities of political participation. The works call political positions into question, illustrate forms of protest, and set their sights on artistic involvement.

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Installations, photographs, videos, paintings, and sculptures by Phyllida Barlow, Andrea Bowers, Julius von Bismarck, Sam Durant, Omer Fast, Adelita Husni-Bey, Hiwa K, Ahmet Öğüt, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and Forensic Architecture document the erosion of democratic achievements and the active pressure of the new mass movements. They analyze discourses on dominance and nonconformist interjections, develop strategies of opposition, and reflect the imaginative ways of the new protest culture.

CURATOR Dr. Martina Weinhart, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

NEIL BELOUFA

AUGUST 23–OCTOBER 28, 2018

The award-winning video and installation artist Neil Beloufa will be realising a unique project by transforming the Schirn into a stage. He will create sculptural stages in various spaces outside the classic exhibition areas of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in which he presents his most recent cinematic works. Film constitutes the focus and point of departure in Beloufa's oeuvre. He also uses its production parameters, such as set, lighting, editing, and perspective, for the development of his pictures, sculptures, and installations. His works are collaborative, with the aim of eliminating the singular position and perspective of the author. Fiction and reality are fused in Beloufa's filmic narratives: the artist creates situations in which the protagonists speak of things that could have happened or not. In the next step these situations are repeated as if they were being observed once more—the fiction, the commentary on the fiction, and finally the commentary on the production of a fictional situation are combined artistically. Viewer become irritated by their own perception and eventually can no longer distinguish between truth and falsehood. Neil Beloufa (*1985 in Paris) lives and works in Paris. He studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris as well as at the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia (USA), and the Cooper Union, New York. His works have already been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including the K11 in Shanghai, the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; and the Palais de Tokyo in Paris.

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

KING OF THE ANIMALS

WILHELM KUHNERT AND THE IMAGE OF AFRICA

OCTOBER 25, 2018–JANUARY 27, 2019

Wilhelm Kuhnert (1865–1926) shaped the concept of Africa in both Europe and the United States more than any other artist of his time. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, he was one of the first European artists to travel through the German colonies of East Africa, which were still largely unexplored at the time. During these journeys, his sketches of the animal and plant world were often created under difficult conditions; they later served as a basis for the monumental paintings he produced in his Berlin studio after his return. The works were exhibited and sold internationally with enormous success. Kuhnert adopted an almost scientific approach while painting and recorded the characteristics of the animals and the landscape in which they lived with great precision. It is not surprising that his animal pictures were published in zoological books like *Brehms Tierleben* (Brehm's Life of Animals) as well as in publications by Wilhelm

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Haacke, the director of Frankfurt Zoo, and in wall charts for school classrooms. His works even appeared on the wrappers of Stollwerck chocolate. Although Wilhelm Kuhnert remains one of the most frequently collected academic painters to this day, his work is largely unknown by the broader public. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting the first comprehensive retrospective on the artist's life and work. The exhibition combines studies and paintings from European and American museums, private collections, and Kuhnert's estate with numerous prints and commercial graphics and publications by the artist. It represents a wide-ranging rediscovery an unusual artist personality of the early twentieth century. Kuhnert's work is seen not only as a mirror of the history of art and natural science, but also against the background of the history of colonialism.

CURATORS Dr. Philipp Demandt and Dr. Ilka Voermann, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

WILDERNESS

NOVEMBER 1, 2018–FEBRUARY 3, 2019

In times in which the blank spaces on the world map have largely disappeared and an "untouched natural state" virtually only exists in the form of areas designated as nature reserves, the "wilderness" is returning in art. The search for the last open places, the expedition as an artistic medium, visions of a posthuman world characterize the works of many contemporary artists alongside the renegotiation of the relationship between individual and beast. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt dedicates an extensive thematic exhibition to this recurring fascination and presents around 100 important works from artists such as Julian Charrière, Marcus Coates, Tacita Dean, Mark Dion, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Asger Jorn, Joachim Koester, Ana Mendieta, Georgia O'Keeffe, Gerhard Richter, Henri Rousseau und Carleton E. Watkins. Since the beginning of the aesthetic modern age artists have repeatedly been drawn to that which is wild, untamed, uncultivated. The exhibition unites paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures and installations, which explore the multitude of different links between wilderness and art from 1900 to the present. With "wilderness" a cultural concept is put up for discussion, which has always also served as a projection surface for anything that was different and foreign, for the longing fantasies beyond the boundaries of the supposed civilization. In today's "Anthropocene," the utopia of a natural state remote from culture and human influence seems anachronistic. And yet the examination of traditional images and fictions of wilderness seem more alive than ever before.

CURATOR Esther Schlicht, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

MARIA LOBODA

NOVEMBER 16, 2018–FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Trees arranged in military formation, a binary code of napkin rings, or bouquets of talking flowers: the sculptures and installations by Maria Loboda are mysterious and full of secrets. Her encoded messages reveal themselves only at second glance. The artist transfers long-forgotten knowledge into the immediate present with her ready-made objects and installations in space. Like an archaeologist, she digs through cultural history to find it, studying archaic impressions and supposed truths about the order of the world. Loboda will be developing new works for the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt and presenting them in the freely accessible Rotunda. In her artistic approach she will pursue the antagonism between form and content: the artist underlines the poetic effect of

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her sculptures and spatial installations with sober aesthetics and an economy of means. Maria Loboda (*1979) studied under Mark Leckey at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main from 2003 until 2008. Her works have already been presented worldwide in group and solo exhibitions, including at the Kunsthalle Basel, the IAC—Institut d'art contemporain in Villeurbanne, The Power Plant in Toronto, the Kunstverein Braunschweig and Kunstverein Bielefeld, as well as at the Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid. Loboda also participated in *documenta 13*.

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

DOUBLE FEATURE

THE LAST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7.30 PM

For more than five years, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt has served as a forum for national and international filmmakers and video artists. Under the heading *Double Feature*, they present a work from their own oeuvre, followed by their favorite film. On the last Monday of every month and in conversation with the curators Katharina Dohm, Matthias Ulrich and guest curators, the invited artists provide extensive insight into their creative work, especially into their interest in film. Film has been considered an independent art form at the latest since digitalization and the simplification of the technology. Today it frequently constitutes the central element of multimedia installations of contemporary art. *Double Feature* sees itself as a platform for different trends and forms of expression in film and video art production. Film and video works by over 50 artists have already been shown in the Schirn. In 2018 the public can look forward to contributions by artists including Lili Reynaud-Dewar, Gery Georgieva, Holly Zausner, and Amie Siegel. The videos and conversations with artists who have already participated can be accessed under the title *Double Feature Conversations* via the Schirn's YouTube channel. Those featured include, for example, Monira Al Qadiri, Eli Cortiñas, Beatrice Gibson, Timur Si-Qin, Pilvi Takala, Tris Vonna-Michell, and Andrew Norman Wilson. The Schirn Magazin also regularly offers discursive contributions focusing on *Video Art* to accompany the series *Double Feature*.

CURATORS Katharina Dohm, Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**OPENING HOURS OF THE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE: TUESDAY, FRIDAY TO SUNDAY
10 A.M. – 7 P.M., WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 10 A.M. – 10 P.M.**

SOCIAL MEDIA The Schirn communicates in the Social Web on **FACEBOOK, TWITTER,
YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM, PINTEREST, SNAPCHAT, SCHIRN MAGAZIN** www.schirn-mag.com