

DEVELOPED ESPECIALLY FOR THE ROTUNDA OF THE SCHIRN, THE BERLIN ARTIST ALICJA KWADE'S INSTALLATION EXPLORES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TIME, SPACE, AND MOTION

ALICJA KWADE.

THE VOID OF THE MOMENT IN MOTION

MARCH 26 – JUNE 14, 2015

PRESS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015, 12:00 NOON

THE ARTIST IS PRESENT.

The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt presents the Berlin artist Alicja Kwade's installation "Die bewegte Leere des Moments" (The Void of the Moment in Motion) specifically developed for its Rotunda from March 26 until June 14, 2015. The work leaves leeway for subjective perception and association. The threat it radiates makes itself almost physically felt. Or is it rather a feeling of uncertainty, of irritation that creeps up on the viewer? A motor with a circular thread is mounted in the center of the ceiling of the publicly accessible Rotunda. The stone with a diameter of about thirty centimeters hanging on a chain reaches to the upper, second story. A large, two-sided analogue clock with a diameter of about fifty centimeters has been mounted across from it at the height of the lower, first story. Both objects rotate around the central axis of the cylinder-shaped space and are incessantly reflected in the building's fenestrated façade covered with mirror backing foil. The objects following their infinite paths at unchanging speed produce a variety of sensory stimuli. You hear the monotonous ticking of the clock, and the continuing movement causes a constant hissing sound. The reflection brings forth an endless multiplication and doubling, which deprives the Rotunda of its spatial boundaries and creates a limitless number of parallel universes. Being at the mercy of this all-embracing circular movement, man is, as it were, entirely integrated into a specific cosmos. With her installation "Die bewegte Leere des Moments" (The Void of the Moment in Motion), Alicja Kwade opens up a space of its own for the visitor, a space that offers possibilities for new perspectives and considerations, increases the viewer's powers of concentration, and sharpens all his senses. What do I actually see? What do time, motion, and space mean for the individual? To what extent do scientific findings provide orientation and support in this specific constellation?

The presentation "Alicja Kwade. Die bewegte Leere des Moments (The Void of the Moment in Motion)" is sponsored by SCHIRN ZEITGENOSSEN.

"Frequently reminiscent of phenomena in the field of natural science, Alicja Kwade's objects question our perception of things and call for permanent reevaluation. After including some of her works in the group show *Infinite Jest* in 2014, the Schirn is pleased to offer the artist its central Rotunda for a solo presentation," says Max Hollein, director of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt.

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Matthias Ulrich, curator of the exhibition, adds that “the artist raises doubts. Her works stretch an aspect of reality up to a point where it threatens to tilt or actually does so, generating something impossible, something that has not existed before. Objects which seem to be of value, yet only reflect the appearance of something valuable, turn into optical traps for the viewer’s perception and raise questions after social agreements and constructions.”

What is reality? What is perception? What is social consent? These are the key issues the works of the Berlin-based artist Alicja Kwade are concerned with. In exploring these issues, the artist keeps returning to scientific, philosophical and even economical phenomena such as doubling, deformation, time, or gravitation. And she finds graphic solutions and precise pictures for these subjects in her installations, sculptures, video works, and photographs. Many of her works strike us as experimental arrangements which, however, cast doubt on, and break up, the absoluteness of scientific laws and collective values and their understanding. Abstract things become concrete. Kwade also adds a social component to these arrangements by making power strategies her theme, for example. Relationships are reviewed, familiar things are reassessed, normality is redefined.

Alicja Kwade (b. in Katowice, Poland in 1979) lives and works in Berlin. She studied at the city’s University of the Arts from 1999 to 2005. In past years, her works were shown in various solo and group exhibitions, such as in the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin (2008), in the Kunstverein Hannover (2012), or at Haus Esters in Krefeld (2013/14). A solo show dedicated to her work has just opened at the Kunsthalle Nürnberg.

The exhibition is sponsored by SCHIRN ZEITGENOSSEN, a circle of private supporters of young art at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. The Schirn thanks Jan Bauer, Andreas Fendel, Hartmuth Jung, Sunhild Theuerkauf-Lukic and Andreas Lukic, Shahpar Oschmann, Vasiliki Basia and Jörg Rockenhäuser, Katharina and Lars Singbartl, Antonie and Heiner Thorborg, as well as Vera and Stefan Wallrich for their commitment.

CATALOGUE Alicja Kwade. Die bewegte Leere des Moments / The Void of the Moment in Motion. Edited by Matthias Ulrich and Max Hollein. With a preface by Max Hollein and an essay by Donatien Grau. German/English edition, 64 pages, 32 color illustrations, 27 x 21 cm (upright format), Swiss-type brochure, spine pleated with colored linen, Heimann & Schwantes, Berlin; Hirmer Verlag, Munich, ISBN 978-3-7774-2442-2. Price: 14 euros (Schirn), 16.80 euros (bookstores). **To be published at the end of April 2015.**

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VENUE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, D-60311 Frankfurt **EXHIBITION DATES** March 26 – June 14, 2015 **INFORMATION** www.schirn.de **E-MAIL** welcome@schirn.de **PHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-0 **FAX** +49.69.29 98 82-240 **ADMISSION** Admission is free. **CURATOR** Matthias Ulrich **CURATORIAL ASSISTANT** Katharina Knacker **SPONSORED BY** SCHIRN ZEITGENOSSEN

SOCIAL MEDIA The Schirn communicates Alicja Kwade's presentation in the Social Web **HASHTAGS:** #alicjakwade, #schirn, #schirnkunsthalle. **ONLINE MAGAZINE** www.schirn-magazin.de **FACEBOOK** www.facebook.com/Schirn **TWITTER** www.twitter.com/Schirn **YOUTUBE** www.youtube.com/user/SCHIRNKUNSTHALLE **INSTAGRAM** @schirnkunsthalle

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