

GALERIE MITTERRAND

KATJA SCHENKER

SLICES FROM A DREAM

7 SEPT > 3 NOV 2018

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING THURSDAY, 6 SEPT 2018

6 PM > 9 PM

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7 SEPT > 3 NOV 2018

PRESS KIT

Galerie Mitterrand is delighted to present a new solo exhibition of Swiss artist Katja Schenker. The exhibition gives us the opportunity to present the fruit of one of her most recent and most monumental 'project/performances' entitled *Dreamer*, completed in 2017 for a university building in MuttENZ, Switzerland.

Since the 1990s, Katja Schenker has been developing work that combines performance and sculpture, using drawing, photography, and video to deepen and document the successive stages of her creative process. During her performances, the artist creates different physical actions that transform materials or objects. During the moll performance presented at the Jinji Lake Museum in Suzhou, China, the artist spread a huge white sheet of paper over the entire floor of the exhibition space. This action may be said to demonstrate the physical and spatial dimension of her work. For her veröffnen performance, Schenker cut a bundle of ropes deploying orange tulle curtains around the audience, fully incorporating them in a sensory and poetic experience. These performances are complex processes which often originate with an emotional intent, then transcribe to drawing, then to stage, before culminating in sculptures that preserve the traces of the creative act, at times even becoming "objects of record".

For her new exhibition at Galerie Mitterrand, Ms. Schenker presents part of the monumental work she created especially for the new FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland in MuttENZ. The artist spent months in situ patiently creating a sculpture 11 meters tall and over 100 tons to adorn the centre of the school's patio, currently under construction. The concrete monolith, resembling a large totem extracted from the earth, was completed using a technique that the artist has been perfecting over the course of the last decade. After excavating a form (or, in this case, building a casing), Katja Schenker fills the cavity with various natural materials and then covers them entirely in concrete. Once set, the solidified block is stripped bare and its sides carved away, revealing the process that led to the work: like a core sample revealing that which has taken place over time. For this project, her most spectacular yet, Ms. Schenker collected materials of various colours from all across Switzerland: wooden stumps, pieces of asphalt, rock, iron, stones and pebbles. At a rate of 30cm a day, on a 2.4m by 2.4m foundation, the sculpture gradually grew and eventually exceeded the expected height of 10 meters. The exhibition at Galerie Mitterrand presents two Cuts taken from the MuttENZ work. Although these sculptures are linked artistically to the monolith from which they were cut, as a result of their relocation they have become works of art in their own right: a kind of synthesis of the original piece. The exhibition comes full circle with a photo of *Dreamer*, as well as the object that served as a protocol throughout the making of the project.

Katja Schenker was born in Saint-Gall, Switzerland in 1968. She lives and works in Zurich. Before studying art at the Hochschule der Künste in Zurich, Ms. Schenker studied comparative literature, art history, and philosophy at the University of Zurich and at the EHESS in Paris. She has had numerous exhibitions of her work, including a solo exhibition at the Jinji Lake Art Museum in Suzhou and the group exhibition *I am the space where I am* at the He Xiangning Art Museum in Shenzhen, China. In 2015, videos of her performances were shown at the Kochi Biennale in India and also included in the 30-year anniversary exhibition (*PerformanceProcess*) at the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris. She is the recipient of many awards, including three successive Swiss Art Awards (2003-2005), the Swiss Performance Award, and the 2015 Prix Visarte.

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Practical information:

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris

T 33 1 43 26 12 05 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - www.galeriemitterrand.com

Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Saturday 11 am > 7 pm and on Monday by appointment

Press contact:

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Katja Schenker

Dream Slice, 2017

Béton, divers minéraux / Concrete, diverse minerals

H 206 x 120 x 16 cm / H 81 x 47 x 6 in

Unique

© Katja Schenker, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand, Photo : Tom Bisig

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Katja Schenker en train de créer *Dreamer* / Katja Schenker is creating *Dreamer*

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Katja Schenker
Wie tief ist die Zeit?, 2017

© Katja Schenker, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand, Photo : Martin Stollenwertk

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GALERIE MITTERRAND

ARTIST

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KATJA SCHENKER

Born in 1968 in St. Gallen, Switzerland
The artist lives and works in Zurich

EDUCATION

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1999 - 2000

Auditing at the Zurich University of the Arts, field of study: visual art

1995 - 1996

Study at the Ecoles des Hautes Etudes, Paris

1989 - 1997

Study at the University of Zurich, lic. phil. in the subjects of comparative studies, art history, philosophy

Since 2012

Group AG KiöR city of Zurich

Since 2008

Program Committee of Zurich Kunsthaus

2000-2012

Lecturer at the University of Art and Design of Luzern

1989-1992

co-curator of St. Gallen's Kunsthalle

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

-

2018

Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France
Atelier Hermann Haller, Zürich, Switzerland

2017

Éditions de l'espace d'art contemporain, FRAC Franche Comté, Besançon, France
33. Jahresausstellung der Solothurner Künstlerinnen und Künstler, Kunstmuseum Plten, Olten, Switzerland
PerformanceProcess, Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland

2016

Dienstgebäude Zürich, Catch of the Year, Allemagne
Basel, Der Totentanz hat sich zur Herbstmesse eingeladen, Suisse
Cimetière des Rois Genève, Open End, Suisse
Haus Konstruktiv Zürich, Werkschau, Allemagne

2015

"Temps Suspendu", Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France
Parc de sculptures contemporaines, Domaine du Muy, France
"PerformanceProcess", Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, France
"Screening und talk", Kochi Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India,

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"Zementgarten", Espace d'art contemporain (les halles), Porrentruy, Switzerland
"Morgenröte, aurora borealis and Levantin: into your solar plexus", Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland

2013

Werkschau 2013, F+F Schule für Kunst und Mediendesign, Zürich, Switzerland
"Katja Schenker Soloshow", Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum, China
"The Pictured Self", Tbilisi Center of Contemporary Art, Georgia
"Talk to the Hand, sprechende Fäuste, patentierte Gesten", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2012

"The Pictured Self", Espacio trapézio Madrid, Spain
"Katja Schenker. Mit angewinkelten Beinen", Kunstmuseum Olten, Switzerland
"Präparat Bergsturz Konservierte Bewegung", Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur, Switzerland
"Wettbewerb für Bildende Kunst der Stadt Zürich 2012", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland
"I am where I am", He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
"Videoperforman.ch", Cercle Artistic de Sant Lluc, Barcelona, Spain
"10'000 Stunden. Über Handwerk, Meisterschaft und Scheitern in der Kunst", Kunstmuseum des Kantons Thurgau Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland
"säen, ernten, glücklich sein", Fontanapark Chur, Switzerland
"meubler la solitude", Kunsthaus Baselland, Muttenz, Switzerland

2011

"Môtiers 2011 art en plein air", Switzerland
"Territoires", Bex, Switzerland
"Moll", Kunstverein Konstanz, Germany

2010

"Videonale", Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany

2009

"Heimspiel. Ostschweizer Kunstschaffen", Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland
"Utopics, 11th Swiss Sculpture Exhibition", Biel, Switzerland

2008

"Kunscht isch gäng es Risiko (Risky Business Art)", Kunsthalle Luzern, Switzerland

2007

"Video Lounge. Künstlervideos aus der Sammlung des Kunsthaus Zürich", Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland
"Werk- und Atelierstipendien der Stadt Zürich", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland
"Môtiers 2007 art en plein air", Switzerland
"Heimspiel Ostschweizer Kunstschaffen", Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland

2006

"Vom Schweifen der Linien. Zeitgenössische Zeichnungspositionen", Seedamm Kulturzentrum Pfäffikon, Switzerland

2005

Swiss Art Awards Basel
"Sammlung Moderne Kunst Seedamm Kulturzentrum", Sammlung Moderne Kunst Seedamm Kulturzentrum, Switzerland

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"Ladies first. Madonnen, Musen und Modelle", Schweizerische Mobiliar Bern, Switzerland

2004

Swiss Art Awards Basel

"Swiss Art Videolobby", Contemporary Art Center Vilnius, Switzerland

"Identität", Kunstraum Baden, Switzerland

"Heimspiel. Ostschweizer Kunstschaffen", Kunstmuseum / Kunsthalle / exex St. Gallen, Switzerland

2003

"10e Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement", Centre pour l'image contemporaine Geneva, Switzerland

"Môtiers 2003. art en plein air", Switzerland

Swiss Art Awards Basel

"schenker, schenker und schenker", Projektraum exex St. Gallen, Switzerland

2002

Swiss Art Awards Basel

"flower power", Garten auf der Insel Ufenau, perforum Pfäffikon, Switzerland

"Sabina Baumann, Katrin Freisager, Cat Tuong Nguyen, Katja Schenker", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland

"Wald Explosionen", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2001

"Communication Front 2001 / project of electronic and media art and theory", Center for Contemporary Art Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2000

Swiss Art Awards Basel

"rest", roentgenraum Zürich, Switzerland

"sabotage", shed im eisenwerk Frauenfeld, Switzerland

1999

"Présentation du Kunstsalon céleste & eliot de Zurich ...", Circuit Lausanne, Switzerland

PERFORMANCES (SELECTION)

-

2018

am Bone-Festival Bern, Bern, Switzerland

2017

"Wie tief ist die Zeit?" Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Campus Muttenz, Switzerland

2016

Dienstgebäude, Zurich, Switzerland

2015

"lüften", Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France

"vesuv" Performancepreis Schweiz, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland

"peau articulée", PerformanceProcess, Centre culturel Suisse, Paris, France

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2014

"vesuv", Arcoop Geneva, Switzerland

2013

"moll", Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum, China

"veröffnen", Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2012

"Mit angewinkelten Beinen" Kunstmuseum Olten, Switzerland

2011

"forteresse", Who's Afraid of Performance Art? Le Commun, Geneva, Switzerland

"moll", Kunstverein, Konstanz, Germany

2010

"forteresse", migma Performancetage, Kunsthalle Luzern, Switzerland

2009

"freie Enden", Stromereien 09, Performance Festival Zürich, Switzerland

"freie Enden", Forde Espace d'art contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland

2007

"lüften", deSingel Antwerpen, Belgium

2006

"lüften", Les bains Brüssel, Belgium

"sauvée", ART Basel, Switzerland

2005

"lüften", Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland

"lüften", Swiss Art Awards Basel, Switzerland

"füllen", Schweizerische Mobiliar Bern, Switzerland

2004

"halten solange sie hält I + II", Schulhaus Im Birch Zürich, Switzerland

"füllen", Kunsthof Zürich, Switzerland

"Aufstand", Swiss Art Awards Basel, Switzerland

"überdreht", Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland

2003

"facile", International Performance Art Willisau, Switzerland

"überdreht", Môtiers 2003, art en plein air, Switzerland

"durchtrieben", Swiss Art Awards Basel, Switzerland

"reizen", Schweizerisches Institut für Kunstwissenschaft Zürich, Switzerland

"reizen", Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

"stopfen", Projektraum ex ex St. Gallen, Switzerland

2002

"stopfen", mu.dac Lausanne, Switzerland

"envers", mu.dac Lausanne, Switzerland

"gern", Swiss Art Awards Basel, Switzerland

2001

"dragner", Stadtgalerie Bern, Bone 4 Performance Szene Schweiz, Switzerland

"weiche", Knie"Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland

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2000

"reizen", shed im eisenwerk, Frauenfeld, sabotage, Switzerland
"envers", shed im eisenwerk, Frauenfeld, Switzerland

1999

"reizen", Circuit Lausanne, Switzerland

ART IN PUBLIC SPACE (SELECTION)

-

2017

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Campus Muttenz, Switzerland

2015

Bundesamt für Gesundheit Bern, Switzerland

2014

Kehrichtverbrennungsanlage Winterthur, Switzerland

2012

Kantonsschule Wetzikon, Switzerland

2011

Kläranlage Uster, Switzerland

2009

Kinderheim Brugg, Switzerland
Basellandschaftliche Gebäude Versicherung, Liestal, Switzerland

2007

Competition, Pestalozzi Site, Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland

2006

PileUp am Rhein, Rheinfelden, Switzerland

2005

Bundesamt für Landestopografie Bern, Switzerland

2004

Im Birch Schoolhouse, Zurich, Live-Art, Switzerland

STIPENDS AND PRIZES

-

2016

Werkbeitrag Kanton Zürich

2015

Performancepreis Schweiz 2015
Prix Visarte 2015

2013

Support grant from the canton of Zurich
Support grant from the canton of St. Gallen

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2012

Studio stipend Ankerfabrik Wien

2009

Studio stipend, Sitterwerk, St.Gallen

2007

Work stipend from the UBS Culture Foundation

2005

Goldener Hase for the «Beste Landschaft 2005» from Hochparterre and Swiss
Television DRS, Kulturplatz

Swiss Art Award

2004

Swiss Art Award

2003

Swiss Art Award

2002

Development Award of the Alexander Clavel Foundation, Riehe

1992

Studio stipend of the Binz39 Foundation, Scuol Nairs

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