



## Press Release / Pressemitteilung

### Collection Satellite #9

The Bar. Liora Epstein in Dialogue with Jürgen Drescher and Reinhard Mucha

Kunstmuseen Krefeld / Kaiser Wilhelm Museum

May 23 – October 6, 2024

Press Conference: May 21, 2024, 11.00 am (KWM)

Opening: May 23, 2024, 7.00 pm (KWM)

The bar as a work of art and a social space: *Collection Satellite #9* is all about participation and interaction. The starting point is the early collaborative project *Verkaufen* (Selling) by the artists Jürgen Drescher (b. 1955 in Karlsruhe) and Reinhard Mucha (b. 1950 in Düsseldorf), which was donated to the Kunstmuseen Krefeld in 2022 by Max Hetzler and Kasper König. The young artist Liora Epstein (b. 1991 Vilnius, Lithuania) responds to this new highlight of the collection with a contemporary bar concept, the expansive and activatable installation *dispersed non-existence*.

In 1981, while a student at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art, Jürgen Drescher set up a bar in the academy and acted as bartender. In the same year, Drescher and his fellow student Reinhard Mucha took up and expanded the idea of the bar together. *Verkaufen* was created for the exhibition *Junge Kunst in Westdeutschland* (Young Art in West Germany) at Galerie Max Hetzler in Stuttgart: a multi-part installation consisting of a bar with accessories, a refrigerator, a cassette recorder, music by Frank Sinatra, a large-format reverse glass painting, and much more. This bar is not tied to a specific location but is designed as a mobile social concept. It is an extraordinarily early example of art concerned with context and discourse, a theme that would go on to characterize the 1990s in particular. It is about togetherness as well as about service and commerce, about the performative, and about participation. "The fantastic joint work by Drescher and Mucha impressively demonstrates how artists transfer everyday situations into the museum and focus on interpersonal encounters," says museum director Katia Baudin: "With Liora Epstein, we were able to win over a young artist who has also designed a bar situation. The dialog between the works and generations of artists makes it clear how groundbreaking Drescher and Mucha's approach was and how fruitfully it can be continued today. The Collection Satellite strengthens the programmatic orientation of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld as a place for public participation and involvement."

Liora Epstein also studied at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art, graduating in 2023 as a master student of Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, whose expansive installation is part of the parallel exhibition *Museum Without Borders* at Haus Lange and Haus Esters. As her final project, Epstein developed a participatory space in the form of a bar, which she has now adapted and expanded for the large skylight room of the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum. Forty years after *Verkaufen* and two generations later, Epstein has created a meeting place that, like the work of Drescher and Mucha, contains many of the fundamental aspects of a bar. The young artist also inscribes her bar with stories that can be deciphered and spun further by visitors. Lighting and numerous props make the space look like a stage.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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Five characters, embodied by costumed tailor's dummies, convey their view of the world—to be read in the *Tagebücher der bösen Taten* (Diaries of Evil Deeds). The fictional characters come from different eras and biographical contexts, blending past, present, and future. “The entire space is like a play in which the audience participates,” explain the curators Magdalena Holzhey and Sylvia Martin, “whether they leaf through the diaries, linger at the bar, look at the props, or talk to each other, the visitors inevitably become an active part of the play with their own story.”

In her works, Liora Epstein, who was enrolled at the Academy for Fashion and Communication in Düsseldorf before studying art, combines fashion, literature, and installation with theatrical, performative, and participatory aspects. With this multilayered, multidisciplinary approach, she fits perfectly into the current program of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld. Epstein was also recently awarded the Provinzial Düsseldorf Art Scholarship in the amount of 12,000 euros.

Jürgen Drescher and Reinhard Mucha belong to the circle of Düsseldorf artists who came to the fore in the 1980s with an expanded type of sculpture. Jürgen Drescher later taught as a professor at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art. Mucha has exhibited several times at the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, including a solo exhibition at Haus Esters in 1990.

A bilingual catalog (German/English) will be published by Grass Publishers in the course of the exhibition.

With the series *Collection Satellites* initiated by Katia Baudin in 2018, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld have been inviting artists from various disciplines to engage with the collection as well as with the history and architecture of the museum, thus repeatedly opening up surprising perspectives on the museum and its history.

Curators of Collection Satellite #9: Magdalena Holzhey, Sylvia Martin

*We would like to thank the Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales der Sparda-Bank West, our partner for the Collection Satellite series.*

*We would also like to thank Party.Rent and the Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf for their support of Collection Satellite #9.*

#### Press photos:



Jürgen Drescher, Reinhard Mucha, *Verkaufen*, 1981  
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Liora Epstein, *dispersed non-existence*, 2023  
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**Visit**

**KUNSTMUSEEN KREFELD**

**Kaiser Wilhelm Museum**

Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1  
47798 Krefeld

**Haus Lange Haus Esters**

Wilhelmshofallee 91-97  
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Katia Baudin

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The Kunstmuseen are a cultural institution of the City of Krefeld.  
Admission is free for children and young people under the age of 18.