



Press Release/Pressemittteilung

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Marion Baruch. Social Fabric HL HE Dialogue: The Human Scale

October 6, 2024–February 9, 2025, Haus Lange

Press Conference: Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 11 a.m., Haus Esters
Opening: Sunday, October 6, 2024, 11.30 a.m.

With the exhibition *Marion Baruch. Social Fabric*, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld present the work of an outstanding artist who has only begun to receive long-overdue recognition in recent years. Born in Timișoara, Romania, in 1929, Baruch's multilayered artistic work is marked by the social upheavals of the twentieth century and engages with subjects such as feminism, the critique of consumption, and migration. Her material ranges from textiles and photography to design objects and "living" sculptures to language and collective projects. In Haus Lange, constructed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe between 1927 and 1930 as a residence for silk manufacturer Hermann Lange, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld are dedicating to the ninety-five-year-old artist her first solo museum exhibition in Germany.

"After having acquired a work by this important artist in 2022, we are now proud to dedicate a major solo exhibition to this pioneering artist," says museum director Katia Baudin. "With her interdisciplinary approach, her work resonates with current artistic practices and explorations. Her work feels right at home in Haus Lange, with its inherent link to Krefeld's textile industry."

The exhibition spans five decades. It begins with the conceptual and performative objects of the late 1960s, shows design as well as sculptural and conceptual works of the 1980s and '90s, and presents a large selection of the more recent installation-based works made from offcuts of the ready-to-wear fashion industry for which Baruch has become internationally known in recent years. Her pioneering early works, for example, include the garment *Abito-Contentitore* (ca. 1969) with which she caused a sensation on the streets of Milan. The body itself becomes an artwork that interrogates the image of the body and of women as well as convention and fashion. Baruch works with designers such as AG Fronzoni and Dino Gavina to create whimsical furnishings; a large rug, half home accessory, half house pet, stretches through Haus Lange's hall. In 1991, she founded the firm NAME DIFFUSION, turning her own existence as an artist into a business model and staging showrooms for the presentation of textile products. "Every fabric is a social fabric," she noted at the time. The core of her work remains the textile with its diverse levels of meaning—connection and communication, body and identity, the mechanisms of the clothing industry. Since 2012, she has been producing works using offcuts from Milan's fashion industry.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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Without cutting them up or altering them in any way, Baruch selects the textile remnants, arranges them into fragile, poetic constellations on the wall or in space, and complements them with suggestive titles. *Porta nel Paesaggio*, for example, a “gateway into the landscape,” frames the view into the garden through one of the large picture windows that connect interior and exterior in the spirit of Mies van der Rohe’s fluid concept of space.

“Hause Lange’s extraordinary architecture serves as a polyphonic resonating chamber for Baruch’s works,” says curator Magdalena Holzhey. “With her filigreed interventions, Baruch charges the space, makes it vibrate, as it were. In this interplay, viewers can experience the relationship between spatial boundaries and openings, between emptiness as absence and as free space in a very special way.”

Organized in close collaboration with Studio Baruch, the exhibition brings together roughly sixty works in total.

In parallel with it, the NAK (Neuer Aachener Kunstverein) presents the solo exhibition *Marion Baruch: Widerstandsgestalt*, containing a selection of the artist’s most recent works (10/6–11/24/2024). Both exhibitions are scheduled to open on the same weekend, October 5 and 6, offering the public the opportunity to visit them both.

Curator: Dr. Magdalena Holzhey

HL HE Dialogue: The Human Scale

Since 2017, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld have been promoting the juxtaposition of historical and more recent or contemporary positions in art, design, and architecture with the *HLHE Dialogue* series in the neighboring Haus Lange and Haus Esters, thus reflecting on the legacy of modernism in ever new ways. As part of this series, the works of the Romanian artist Marion Baruch (b. 1929) are now juxtaposed with those of the younger Anna K. E. (b. 1986) under the leitmotif *The Human Scale*. For both artists, the body, both their own and that of others, is an instrument of measurement and a yardstick for the perception of space, movement, and interaction. While Marion Baruch’s textile works focus on the absent body, Anna K.E.’s installations explore spatial and social experiences of the body.

Marion Baruch (b. 1929 in Timișoara, Romania; lives and works in Gallarate, Italy) began her eventful artistic career in Bucharest, continued her studies at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, and in 1954 was awarded a grant to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. She lived in Rome, Milan, and Paris before settling in Gallarate with her family in the 1960s (the French capital became her home again for longer periods between 1991 and 2011). The house she had constructed there was inspired by Mies van der Rohe, among others—it is an open steel, glass, and concrete structure marked, like Haus Lange, by a dialogue between interior and exterior space, between art, architecture, and nature. Despite frequent exhibitions, Baruch’s extensive work has only begun to receive international recognition in recent years. In 2020, she had her first major retrospective at Kunstmuseum Luzern; Les Abbatoirs, Musée—Frac Occitanie Toulouse; and other venues. In 2021–22, the solo exhibition *TZIMTZUM* traveled to the Galerie der Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig, the CCA (Center for Contemporary Art) Tel Aviv-Yafo, and the MNAC (National Museum of Contemporary Art) in Bucharest.

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Visit

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The Kunstmuseen are a cultural institution of the city of Krefeld.