

CLAUDIA WIESER: *COMEDIES, HISTORIES AND TRAGEDIES*

Von Bartha, S-chanf

1 August – 12 September 2020



Claudia Wieser, *Untitled*, 2020 (various sculptural works), mixed media.
Image courtesy von Bartha & the Artist. Photo by Hans-Georg Gaul.

Von Bartha is pleased to present Berlin-based artist Claudia Wieser's first solo show at the gallery's S-chanf space, 1 August - 12 September 2020. Taken from the first complete edition of Shakespeare's plays (1623), the exhibition title, *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies*, alludes to the stage-like setting of the exhibition, as well as evoking the full range of human experience. In light of current global events, Wieser invites self-reflection and a consideration of the comedies, tragedies and histories that humanity endures. For this exhibition, the artist combines a range of new works including pedestals, sculptures, wallpapers, and drawings.

Whilst *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies* will centre in the cube-shaped main gallery space, as an introduction to the show a series of new drawings by Wieser will be exhibited around the exterior of the cube. Within the installed space, Wieser will suggest the notion of a theatrical stage setting, consisting of a number of crafted elements. Wallpaper incorporating the artist's

own and found photographs will cover three walls of the space. The resulting composition will create the sense of an optical illusion, opening up the space into three-dimensionality, as well as incorporating visual references to Classical antiquity, a recurring motif in the artist's work. A group of wooden, gilded sculptures will be positioned throughout the exhibition. The abstract wooden figures will each assume their own form, and therefore character, aiming to interact with the surrounding artworks and the viewer. Some figures will stand on plinths positioned around the exhibition, which will act as a means for display as well as sculptures themselves. Three relief-like mirror works will form part of the scenic space, and aim to make the viewer part of the scenery.

The exhibition builds on Wieser's exploration of the realms beyond abstraction and the formality of lines. The artist commonly uses heterogeneous materials in her work, such as mirror, which brings light into the space and reflects both the viewer and surrounding artworks. Wieser's multifaceted practice also places emphasis on craftsmanship. The ceramic tiles featured in the show are handmade by the artist and wooden sculptures were created using turnery and applied with gold leaf using a traditional gilding technique.

Known for her work based on the principles of geometric abstraction, Wieser's multimedia approach includes drawings, sculptures, wall installations and tapestries. Her practice explores the byways of art history and media, such as the transition of a utility object to a work of art; the border between art, architecture and design; and fields such as film and theatre. Wieser finds inspiration amongst a range of influences such as Modernism and the Bauhaus, in particular the work of artists such as Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky, who explored the idea of *Gesamtkunstwerk*, or 'total work of art'. Art and craftsmanship intersect in her work, from hand-painted ceramics to gilded wooden vases, she explores the relationship between aesthetic and function, investigating the limits of shape, form and colour.

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Facts:

Title: *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies*

Exhibition dates: 1 August – 12 September 2020

Address: von Bartha, Somvih 46, 7525 S-chanf, Switzerland

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 3 - 6.30 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

***Comedies, Histories and Tragedies* will also be available to view through von Bartha's online viewing room via www.vonbartha.com**

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and S-chanf, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at <https://www.vonbartha.com/stories>

About Claudia Wieser

Claudia Wieser (b. 1973, Germany) took an apprenticeship as a blacksmith (1993 – 1997) before studying Fine Art at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste Munich under the direction of Axel Kasseböhmer and Markus Oehlen.

She has participated in several international solo exhibitions including; *Ich und Du* (Kunstverein Oldenburg, 2009), *Poems of the Right Angle* (The Drawing Center New York, 2010), *Waiting in the Wings* (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Villa Croce, Genua, 2017), *Inside Stop Making Sense* (BNKR Space Munich, 2018), *Shift* (Bloomberg Space, London, 2019), *Generations* (Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, 2020 and Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, 2020).

Group shows include; *Perspektive 07* (Lenbachhaus, Munich, 2007), *Intensif-Station: 26 Artists' Rooms in the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen*, (K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, 2010), *Kosmos Rudolf Steiner* (Kunstmuseum Stuttgart in cooperation with Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2011), *Asche und Gold* (Marta Herford, Herford, 2012), *Homepage. Über das Interieur in der Gegenwartskunst*, (Kunsthalle Nuremberg, 2015), *Soziale Fassaden. Ein Dialog der Sammlungen des MMK und der Deka – Bank*, (Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, 2018), *Haus Werk: The Bauhaus in contemporary art* (McClelland Gallery, Victoria, Australia, 2019), *Homo Faber – Craft in Contemporary Sculpture* (ACC, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea, 2019) and *Die Absurde Schönheit des Raumes* (Kunsthalle Hamburg, 2020).

Press Contact: Sutton | Rachel Wiseman | rachel@suttoncomms.com | +44 (0) 207 183 35 77