

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### MAGIC CIRCLE

Group Exhibition

#### Opening

**with performance:** THU 22 03 2018, 7:00 pm

**Duration:** FRI 23 03 2018 – WED 15 05 2018

**PRESS TOUR:** THU 22 03 2018, 10:00 am

#### PRESS and

**IMAGE MATERIAL:** [www.kunstraum.net/en/press](http://www.kunstraum.net/en/press)

#### Artists:

Johanna Braun (AT), Veronika Burger (AT), Veronika Eberhart (AT), Karin Ferrari (IT/AT), Roxanne Jackson (US), Robin J. Kang (US), Ariane Koch (CH) und Sarina Scheidegger (CH), Chantal Küng (CH) und Mara Züst (CH), Katja Lell (RU) und Laura Nitsch (DE/AT), Tabita Rezaire (FR), Linda Stupart (ZA), Suzanne Treister (UK)

#### Curators:

Katharina Brandl (AT), Daniela Brugger (CH)

#### ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME:

**Curators Tour:** FRI 23 03 2018, 1:30 pm

**Magic Gathering:** FRI 13 04 2018

2:00–5:00 pm Performance-Workshop *Le streghe son tornate or Activating the Archive* with Chantal Küng and Mara Züst

5:30–6:30 pm Curators Tour

7:00 pm Talk with Ruth Noack (art historian and curator) and Renate Wöhrer (art historian)

**Finissage:** TUE 15 05 2018

6:00 pm Curators Tour

7:00 pm Lecture by Ulrike Rosenbach (media artist, professor for New Artistic Media)

DJ set with Therese Terror and Alexandra Von Doom

### ***Welcome in the Magic Circle!***

*Pentagram, witch talon, black cat. The Kunstraum Niederoesterreich won't quite become the Blocksberg, but it will create space for an always topical figure: the witch. Pop icon Katy Perry is accused by nuns of being one, Lana del Rey practices witchcraft, calling for a ritual curse upon Donald Trump via Twitter – pop culture is full of magic!*

*In the exhibition "Magic Circle" curators Katharina Brandl and Daniela Brugger convene contemporary and historical positions related to the witch in queer-feminist cultural production. Power, knowledge, and identity are thematic fields explored in this exhibition. The history and present of female appropriation of power and magical practices play a central role. An exhibition about the social backgrounds of witch trials, nail art, magic spells, witch courses, fortune-tellers, and their queer-feminist power.*

The art historian and women's rights activist Katharina Brandl and the artist and art educator Daniela Brugger investigate the figure of the witch through a diverse array of impressive works from queer-feminist resistance culture in the exhibition *Magic Circle*. Brandl and Brugger: "The fascinating thing about the witch is that she is a symbol of both empowerment and repression. Historically seen, witches were people who were different, had non-conformist ideas, or questioned traditions and power structures. Her insubordination, but also her knowledge and resistance are important reference points for many artists in our exhibition."

The curators selected a broad spectrum of works that hark back to the feminist appropriation of the idea of the witch in the 1970s, while also addressing "witchcraft" in contemporary feminist and artistic movements. Some with a dose of black humour, at the borders of myth and transformation, others based on longstanding theoretical research on the subjects of power, knowledge, and identity, the artists from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States explore conceptual aspects related to the current interest in witch practices in the fine arts.

#### **Press contact:**

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Image material: [www.kunstraum.net/en/press](http://www.kunstraum.net/en/press)

#### **Opening hours:**

Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free entrance