

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### Andrea Maurer wins the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance 2016

**Prize-winner:** Andrea Maurer

**Jury:** Sandro Droschl (Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien, Graz)  
Bettina Kogler (WUK, Vienna)  
Christiane Krejs (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna)  
Marlies Surtmann (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna)

#### Performance and

**prize presentation:** 01 09 2016

**Duration:** 02 09 – 03 09 2016

#### PRESS AND

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

The winner of the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance is unanimous: Andrea Maurer's performance "Selbsterlegung" [Self-Deconstruction] thoroughly convinced the H13 jury with its "consistent experimental approach to language, generated from an interplay between construction and deconstruction, from a mistrust in words, and from her passion to investigate things down to the tiniest detail."

In her work Maurer reacts to our current social and political situation, which in the artist's view is ridden with crisis. Her response subjects space, objects, and language to a – at times also comical – distortion.

#### Welcome to Andrea Maurer's deconstruction park

Andrea Maurer invites her audience to a performative "tour", which can last from six to twelve hours. Like Alice in Wonderland, where objects and language lose their contours, the audience can move through the oversized objects in Maurer's theme park, which she (de)constructs during her performance.

### **Self-attack with letters**

Andrea Maurer's performance adheres to the tradition of linguistic criticism and experimentation in Austrian literature, in particular that of the Wiener Gruppe, but also to pre-Socratic philosophy, which she esteems for its informality and freedom. Maurer expands her practice of deconstruction and decomposition from objects to words and letters, whose meaning we can no longer be certain of. "Here and there – reading, speaking, singing, stuttering, murmuring, humming, shouting, whispering. A table leg is sawn into, the podium cut to pieces, gravity takes effect and everything shifts, falls, collapses or is in danger of shifting, falling, or collapsing. Do you hold on? Do you try to keep things under control?"

Maurer conceives this large-scale "self-deconstruction" as a "material test in a higher sense, where sentence constructions are treated in the same manner as wood constructions. This extensive monologue is a statement on the undeniable feeling that the excesses of our everyday mass communication have fallen prey to a collapse in meaning. But 'Selbsterlegung' is also infused with an optimistic attitude, even though there's no attempt to sweep the doubts about the inadequacies of our language under the carpet (or podium)." (Andrea Maurer)

### **Biography**

Andrea Maurer (\*1978 in Salzburg) lives and works in Vienna. She realised numerous projects with the collective studio 5 between 2007 and 2013, which were presented internationally. Amongst others: "performance for a seated audience" (2010), "THE END" (2011), "meaning meaning" (2012), and the experimental film "der springende punkt. (the point.)" (2013). Maurer was awarded the Media Art Prize of the Province of Salzburg for the installation "Gesprächsgegenstände" (2013). Recent projects include the performances "Poelstra stolpert, Maurer sägt" (2014) and "SURE I AM NOT" (2016) in collaboration with Frans Poelstra, the piece "numbers in pieces" (2015), the ten-day performance "Die Baugrube" at the 2015 Festival of Regions, and the installation "still yet already" (2016). Maurer has been studying in the Object Sculpture studio at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna since 2009.

### **The H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance**

The award is intended to enhance the visibility of performance art. The Kunstraum Niederoesterreich strives to draw a broader public to an artistic discipline that presents a special challenge to the artists – performances cannot be exhibited and marketed in the common understanding. The H13 is the only award for performance art in Austria. Since 2015 it is endowed with 4000 EUR prize money, and there is an additional production budget of 2000 EUR available for the performance on 01 09 2016.

**Opening Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11 am – 7 pm and Saturday 11 am – 3 pm, free entrance.**

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