

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### H13 PRIZE FOR PERFORMANCE

#### Julia Marx: Wenn es eine andere Möglichkeit gäbe

Thursday, 3 Sept. 2015 at 7:00 pm

Performance and prize presentation

Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna

Julia Marx' performance "Wenn es eine andere Möglichkeit gäbe" (If there was another possibility) addresses the situation of female artists who decide to drop out of art. Her work was preceded by extensive research, which she has been conducting since 2012. The result is a highly topical work, which also convinced the prominent members of the H13 jury.

An exhibition is being dismantled. Relics of artistic works with drop-outs Marx questioned are partly hidden and partly visible in the space. Furthermore, there are excerpts from the interviews on display.

The background of this dismantling process touches upon essential aspects of an artist's existence, such as the often tedious and unspectacular work methods, the now understood self-precarisation, and finally the circumstances of dropping out. According to Marx, the activities of artists are not perceived by society as work, and the dismantling (the one in the performance as well as that of the artist's existence) is a political statement emphasising the invisible and precarious side of the artist's life.

With her performance Marx thematises the private situation of artists and at the same time touches on the topic's societal and political dimensions. She thereby sounds out the controversial terrain Society – Politics – Private Sphere. The jury explains in its decision: *"Julia Marx successfully tackles topics of great relevance to society with a question that is only apparently intrinsic to art. The project 'Wenn es eine andere Möglichkeit gäbe' (If there was another possibility) explores an important socio-political topic, which especially affects female artists in a performance-driven and consumerist society: The feat of combining precarious working conditions under the enormous pressure of artistic production with the realisation of personal life models causes a quiet and barely perceptible 'drop-out' of many artists. Following intensive research and with a fine sense of humour, Julia Marx poses adept questions of artistic and cultural self-organisation without pointing a moral finger. At a pleasant distance from strategic topic selection and self-dramatisation, Julia Marx has the courage to take up a taboo subject that challenges the self-assurance of the art scene in the good tradition of critical artistic positions."*

### **On the H13 Lower Austrian Prize for Performance**

The H13 is the only award for performance art in Austria. It is endowed with 4000 EUR prize money. Its value resides not only in financial support for performance artists; the award should also symbolically enhance the visibility of this artistic discipline. The Kunstraum Niederoesterreich thereby strives to draw a broader public to a field that presents a special challenge to the artists – performances cannot be exhibited and marketed in the common understanding.

The quantity and quality of the submitted works have continuously increased over the last years. In order to credit the multitude of excellent works the Kunstraum established a performance series that not only invites international performance artists but also the outstanding applications for the H13 Lower Austrian Prize for Performance that did not win the award.

The 2015 jury members:

- Sabine Marte (video and performance artist)
- Johanna Schwanberg (art historian, critic, museum director)
- Christiane Krejs (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich)
- Sissi Makovec (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich)

### **On Julia Marx (née Kläring)**

Julia Marx (born 1978 in Vienna) is active as a visual artist in the fields of video, performance, and drawing and works as a freelance curator. She teaches drawing comics at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, illustrates children's books, designs T-shirts, and produces video documentaries of performances. In collaboration with Virginie Bobin as the duo *bo-ring*, she curated the 2010 performance symposium *Performing Memory* at the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich and the exhibition *We Don't Record Flowers, Said The Geographer* at bétonsalon Paris. In 2010/11 she worked together with the artist and dramaturge Andrea Salzmann on a four-part series of projects under the title *37 Jahre zu spät (37 years too late)* in which they dealt with the work *Self Portraits* by Gina Pane. The individual steps of the project were shown at: FormContent, London; Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna; Flatzmuseum, Dornbirn; brut Koproduktionshaus Vienna.

In 2012 Marx was awarded the state scholarship for fine arts of the (former) Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to continue research for her ongoing project *rather an art dreamer. Oder: wie steigt man aus dem Kunstbetrieb wieder aus?* (or: how to drop out of the art industry?). In the same year she curated the exhibition *Nicht nur ein Bild, sondern eine ganze Welt* (Not just an image, but a whole world) at the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich.

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

**Contact and further inquiries:**

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

Information about the profile of the Kunstraum: [www.kunstraum.net/en/kunstraum/profile](http://www.kunstraum.net/en/kunstraum/profile)

Information about the H13 Lower Austrian Prize for Performance:

[www.kunstraum.net/en/performance/h13-performance-price](http://www.kunstraum.net/en/performance/h13-performance-price)

Information about 10 years Kunstraum Niederoesterreich:

<http://www.kunstraum.net/en/programme/212-h13-2015-2013-lower-austria-prize-for-performance-i-10-years-kunstraum-niederoesterreich/pt-10-jahre-kr-3-9-en-lekt>