

MEDIA INFORMATION

Julischka Stengele Wins the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance 2020

Prize-winner: Julischka Stengele

Jury: Katharina Brandl (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich artistic director), Astrid Peterle (donaufestival performance curator and chief curator at the Jewish Museum Vienna), Stefanie Sourial (performance artist), Luisa Ziaja (curator for contemporary art, Belvedere 21)

Press talk: WE 02 09 2020, 10:00 am

Performance and
prize presentation: TH 03 09 2020, 7:00 pm

Exhibition: FR 04 09 – SA 12 09 2020

Artist Talk: SA 12 09 2020, 1:00 pm

PRESS AND

IMAGE MATERIAL: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

The artist Julischka Stengele is this year's winner of the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance. The four-member jury consisting of Katharina Brandl, Astrid Peterle, Stefanie Sourial, and Luisa Ziaja selected Stengele's project BALLAST | EXISTENZ from over 80 applications. The performance and festive H13 award ceremony will take place on September 3, 2020 at the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich.

Stengele describes herself as “unapologetically fat, queer, and femme/inist”. The same could be said about her artistic work, in which she uses her body as material, exhibition project, and stage in the same measure.

The project BALLAST | EXISTENZ, now decorated with the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance, explores how certain populations are portrayed as a social and economic burden, especially in times of the COVID-19 crisis. Stengele critically interrogates the current debasement in the media and day-to-day politics of those who do not fulfil the expected requirements of performance society. She draws parallels between the fascistic myth of a healthy, capable body and the perpetual exploitation of humans as a resource in capitalist society, and draws links to the current situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the essential question overshadowing the discussion about “risk groups” is: Who is expendable?

In 2020 the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance will be awarded already for the 14th time by the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich. The aim is to draw greater attention to performative works by artists and make them accessible to an interested audience. This year, the H13 prize money was raised to 5000 EUR. It is the only award for performance art as a medium of visual arts in Austria.

Jury Statement

“Julischka Stengele’s project BALLAST | EXISTENZ addresses the ambiguity of the term “performance”: performance as a guiding economic concept in society and performance as a medium in art. Who has to, who is allowed to, who can deliver performance, especially in times of the COVID-19 pandemic? In her performance, which will be presented at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich on September 3, 2020, the artist gets to the heart of highly topical questions concerning how we live together: Which bodies – especially these days – are considered a burden? How can solidarity, how can relationality between bodies be conceived when physical distancing seems to be the order of the day? Julischka Stengele’s art is characterised – as she says herself – by an unequivocal advocacy of a queer, feminist, and body positive practice. This year the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance goes to an artist who stands out as a loud proponent of diversity in contemporary art and has enriched the Viennese art scene, uncompromisingly and tenaciously, with her performances and curatorial projects.”

The Artist

Julischka Stengele lives in Vienna and works internationally as an artist, performer, author, cultural worker, and curator of performance events, and also in the educational field. She studied design,

photography, fine arts, performance as well as queer and gender studies in Berlin, Helsinki, and at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (diploma degree with honours in 2015).

Stengele views her artistic production as a form of social engagement. Her versatile work methods deal with the mechanisms and effects of social power relations, stigmata and ideological norms on the body and mind, as well as the possibilities for their emancipation and liberation through art. She employs diverse media, however primarily with a focus on the field of performative art. Under the title "leib&leben", Stengele writes regular columns for the feminist magazine *an.schläge*.

Her work has been presented in over 20 countries around the world and has won numerous awards, such as the START Stipend for Fine Arts by the Austrian Federal Chancellery (2016), the Norbert Klassen Stipend and the BONE Performance Art Residency in Bern (2017), and the ImPulsTanz TURBO Research Residency (2019). In September 2019 Stengele organised the queer performance festival *Femmes Against Fascism* at the historical Otto Wagner hospital in the framework of Wienwoche – Festival for Art and Activism.

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Image material: 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