

TANJA POL GALERIE

Sophie Schmidt
Bauchigungen
Drawings
04/05/17 - 19/05/17

To mark the start of the gallery's representation of Sophie Schmidt, we present around 80 of the artist's drawings in a brief exhibition beginning May 5, 2017 with the intention of promoting a first monograph on her work. During the two-week-long presentation, you can acquire a work on paper at a special price, and thus gain a special overview of her extensive drawing.

Sophie Schmidt's artistic work is diverse, including first and foremost performance, along with series of drawings, paintings on wood panels, walls, or other supports, often found by the artist, sculpture, installation, and the writing of texts that accompany her works or stand for themselves.

In her performances, Sophie Schmidt moves with the elegance and agility of a dancer, not incidental here are her charisma and her clear voice, with which she accompanies the movement and actions of the performance. Her appearance, coupled with the awkwardness of her props and installations, in which she crawls about lissomely, bows down, and bends, or spreads herself out, generating a universe all her own that is immediately fascinating. Her sculptural props, marked by an imaginative bricolage and an unexpected wealth of detail, are always convincing and can sometimes continue an existence as autonomous sculptures beyond their performative use.

Language is an essential element in Sophie Schmidt's artistic cosmos, her neologisms ("Bauchigung [stomachening]," "Brustigung" [breastening], "Seelenmoos" [soul moss], "Lungenflügler" [lungwinger]) are poetic, and at the same time very direct. The artist brings physicality, movement, language, space, volumes and materiality together in her visions.

Her drawings in small and large formats on various papers are very sensual, in terms of both their materiality and what they represent. Their gesture is simultaneously strong and tender, we can see anthropomorphic, animal bodies, volumes, lines, cross-hatching, dense scribbles to emphasize certain spots and parts of drawings: none cannot avoid thinking of physical unions of great intimacy. But Sophie Schmidt leaves open what actually happens to "lungwingers" and the "cucumber eaters" seen here, according to the titles.

Sophie Schmidt was born in Starnberg in 1986. In February of this year, she completed her degree at Munich's Akademie der bildenden Künste, and received the Debütantenpreis, a prize for up and coming artists funding a catalogue. In 2014, she studied at Vienna's Akademie der bildenden Künste on an Erasmus scholarship. In 2017, as part of a fellowship at Maastricht's Van Eyck Academie, she will spend several months living in the Dutch city, and in November 2017 we will present a solo show with panel paintings, installation, and performance.