

Christa Joo Hyun D'Angelo

GHOSTS

05/07–18/08/2019

Opening 04/07, 7pm

In *GHOSTS*, Christa Joo Hyun D'Angelo investigates intimacies and the complexity of interpersonal relationships. Working with sculpture, installation and video, she addresses notions of femininity, female sexuality and misogyny. In doing so, she illuminates their entanglements with political and social power structures including racialisation and categories of identity such as age.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the video work *Protest and Desire* (2019), which portrays the 49-year-old Ugandan-born Lilian, who lives in Germany. In a series of interviews, she reports of her personal experiences as a HIV-positive, Black woman in Germany while subtly pointing towards the inherent prejudices that women of colour experience within and outside of their own communities. She provides insight into the way she deals with personal ghosts of the past and present, and the struggle for societal visibility and acceptance. This is expanded through dream-like and associative sequences that move between lightness and darkness, weaving together notions of innocence and danger. *Protest and Desire* demonstrates the extent to which shame, stigma and isolation can be transformed into strength and self-empowerment, expanding the complex and multi-layered narratives around dealing with HIV and AIDS activism, in which women, in particular women of colour, have historically been silenced and – now as then – are rendered invisible. Through this, the video work exposes a plethora of structural problems, in particular in relation to Germany's treatment of migrants, biological and health politics when dealing with HIV and PrEP revealing Eurocentric patterns of thinking.

The video-collages *The Cool Girl* (2019) and *Bitches and Witches* (2019) address themes of inherent societal racism and misogyny, as well as their interconnections. Pop cultural film sequences from the late 1980s, 1990s and the early 2000s are rearranged and augmented. They reflect societal stereotypes and social modes of behaviour. Accumulated in this manner, they point towards the permanent medial reproduction of traditional and limited understandings of femininity. At the same time, the video-collages provide a self-empowering new interpretation of all of those images that – often in an unreflected way – accompany us.

Complemented by the sculptural works *Heart of Glass* (2018), *Heels for All* (2019), *It's Complicated* (2019) and *As Long As You Remember Who's Wearing the Trousers* (2019), GHOSTS is intended as a feminist contribution to discourses addressing female sexuality and toxic relationships. At the same time it underscores the fact that the social representation and individual disciplining of the body is always closely connected with social regulation. Which ghosts surround us, and which of these ghosts do we carry inside ourselves?

With a contributing text from Christina Gigliotti

curated by Sylvia Sadzinski

EVENTS

25/07 | 7pm

Reading: Irène Mélix "lila lieder" as a part of the audio programme *Un-Ghosting Voices*

30/07 | 7pm

Artist Talk with Christa Joo Hyun D'Angelo and Alphonsine Bakambamba (Deutsche Aidshilfe)

AUDIO PROGRAMME *Un-Ghosting Voices*

curated by Vincent Schier

Un-Ghosting Voices is an audio programme in urban space that broadcasts voices that use art to speak out against discriminatory structures and marginalisation, relating to the body, gender or sexuality. With contributions from BOIBAND, Giegold & Weiß, Stellan Veloce & Neo Hülcker, Irène Mélix.

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LIST OF WORKS

HEART OF GLASS

neon sculpture, 55 x 50 cm / 21.6 x 19.6 in, Ed. 5, 2018

HEELS FOR ALL

fiberglass, mirror, concrete, chains, wood, rhinestones, 87 x 90 x 290 cm / 70.8 x 18.8 x 11 in., 2019

PROTEST AND DESIRE

2-channel HD / 4K video, stereo sound, 19.45 min., 2019

THE COOL GIRL

video collage, color / sound, 4.44 min, 2019

BITCHES AND WITCHES

video collage, color / sound, 4.19 min, 2019

IT'S COMPLICATED

4 phase blinking neon, 90 x 90 cm, 35.4 in x 35.4 in., Ed.3, 2019

AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER WHO'S WEARING THE TROUSERS

styrofoam, chains, plaster, spray paint, papermache, 390 x 30 cm, 2019