

Dear guests,

My name is Gisela Lammertz, I am a cultural manager and journalist.

heaven and hell

Sun and moon

Hot and cold

Inside and outside-

Contrasts are commonplace. And here we are with the motto of this exhibition contrasts / contrasts, to which I warmly welcome you in the name of the artist group rootless-root-los. It is already their fifth joint exhibition since its inception in 2016.

A few facts about the group.

rootless consists of nine artists from three continents, they grew up in India, Argentina, Spain, the US and Germany, respectively, and have lived in these countries for many years. They commute from time to time and whenever possible, they work together in workshops lasting several days.

The name of the international artist group rootless / root-los is at the same time fact and criticism for the creators. Rootless means homelessness, the loss of support and security, security, firmness. At the same time, the term complains about the lack of an artist's own history, which - in comparison to the history of male art - can not invoke numerous witnessable, centuries-old traditions.

The dissolution of the expected role of the woman leads to homelessness, wrote the clever Christine Thürmer-Rohr 1987 in her book: "vagabonds". However, this homelessness is not a friendly no-man's-land, but a barren, exemplary and non-pictorial space. This loss is to endure, but it is also the prerequisite for women to go alone and actively on the path and search where their room could be. Thürmer-Rohr calls this "mental and psychological vagrancy".

Vagabond: That's exactly what rootless women do, in and through their art.

They show and represent again this time in a contrasting form that femininity is nothing fixed, has nothing to do with nature, is no description of the state and no mystification, but:

at best, in the process of seeking to guess, in this process, this femininity flashes here and there, is constantly in flux, arises in the movement, can not hold on - ----

And: - I wish it - too do not stop. ☺

Especially for this exhibition, the vast majority of the exhibits exhibited here were created to reflect the theme of "contrasts".

Alone and / or together, the nine artists approached the topic of contrasts in different ways and with diverse materials. Delicate and hard materials, organic and inorganic are combined, repelled, and combined: clay, wood, acrylic, aurell, gouache and oil paints, fine and coarse fabrics, paper, word signs, metal and everyday objects fit into the picture or the sculpture. All contrasts that always arise through the juxtaposition of contrary elements can be found in the objects and images: shape, outline, direction, the arrangement, size and proportions, color and chiaroscuro and surface. In the color contrast: black / white, yellow / blue, red / green, light / dark. And in material contrast: soft / hard, thick / thin or in size contrast: small / large, high / low. Not only the media show contrasts.

The motives also contrast: death and life, happiness and bad luck, love and hate, sadness and joy. Everything is together. The chosen materials and the formal language complement each other in the collage, belong together and are thus in their statement inseparable. Sometimes the contrast is strongly emphasized and sometimes it has to be "sought" by the viewer.

What do contrasts effect?

Contrasts bring contrasts to the fore, they are needed in order to be able to clearly recognize forms, or better: the outline of the forms and to create spatiality. Otherwise, everything remains in the nebulous, milky unclear.

Contrasts intensify the desired expression and create a tension that is perceived as stimulating by the observers.

Why this topic?

"The contrast increases the truth," says philosopher Schopenhauer. So he releases the view of the truth. My thesis: The artists chose the contrast representations to show the contradictions of their life.

The contrast represents the contradictions with which we all (have to) live, many of them seem inseparable. Poor and rich, hunger and food surpluses, man and woman. We can hardly solve these contradictions, only endure them - through learning and enjoyment. A balancing act, not to despair and at the same time to remain sensitive and curious for the simultaneously existing, beautiful, wonderful, witty sides of the world. The exhibits bear witness to the simultaneity of the contradictions in life: the greatest happiness and fear of death, banality and exceptionality are combined in the art work. And maybe this is only possible here.

Thus, in "Surrender" (surrender), the skull with a vivid, beautiful woman's face is found on a breeze of scarf. The material is gentle and airy, the motive frightening. In the poetry collages "Two Days" and "Snapshot" the artist expresses and shows great pain and farewell - and right next to it - happiness and the idea of hope. And we also suspect: Only through the contrast we feel clearly, be it happiness or misfortune. Freud fumbled, "

We are so set up that we can only enjoy the contrast intensively, the condition very little ".

But I noticed even more. (I know works ready)

All works are also a subjective, artistic mastery of female experiences in which the question flashes: Who am I?

It is about the manifold diversity of women, people, perceptions, psyches, life paths and destinies - and styles and artifacts.

And the contrasts on display also deal with the thoughts, realities of life, the search for identity and the search for international relationships of women in the world. The works give the impetus to set oneself on the path, to find out who this person is, their own I, their own human and artistic identity.

It is less about the definition of the I, but about the search for it, and this is shown in the works. Thus, for example, the one ego is similar and different in contrast to the other egos in the case of the "fem five". On the question: Who is that? Is the answer correct? All five and one at the same time. I experience my self in togetherness through togetherness and contrast to others.

In doing so, the artists are neither committed to a certain style or a "feminine" formal language nor to the production of figurative art. No medium is safe from them, be it

painting, poetry, action art, plastic objects, collages, ready-mades or a mixture of the above.

In many possible artistic forms and expressions they want

Always irritating, touching and encouraging works and art objects, getting involved in the new, allowing the contrast.

Here, too, a characteristic of the group can be observed:

Their works do not want to represent or be perfect / exalted, they consciously want to remain fragmentary, fragmentary, distorted. An art that confronts the public with taboos. So too in "The Changing - Life": the naive-cheesy girl portrait that symbolizes the perfect child's soul and the anonymous cold grimaces that threaten the child. But on closer inspection shows: The girl will overcome these horrors. The red shoe and the red lips already indicate this.

Here we are at another feature of the exhibits on the topic of contrast:

Again and again we see in the picture or metaphorically a transformation. Be it the symbol of the butterfly in "Surrender", which stands for the metamorphosis, or in the "Heavenly Heritage" cycle, which aims to change a new basis of life or even in the title: "The Changing - Life".

In other words:

Every person goes through depths and heights during his life, undergoes changes, loses himself, finds himself. Always on the move. "Everything flows and nothing stays; there is only one eternal becoming and changing ", says Heraklit:

The exhibited works implement a world experience that consists of a constant change of material and form. It is a metaphor for the processuality of the world. Being is the becoming of the whole. Being is therefore not static, but dynamically grasped as eternal change. That brings hope, without which we could not live.

Please take your time to look at individual works. Which object interests you, which work irritates you, which calls you to yourself? Listen to your stomach: What do you see? There is much more to discover in this contrasting exhibition than what I have just told you.

Have fun and

Thank you for your attention.