



Opening: June 25, 2022, 5 p.m.

Presse Conference: Thursday, June 23, 2022, 12 p.m.

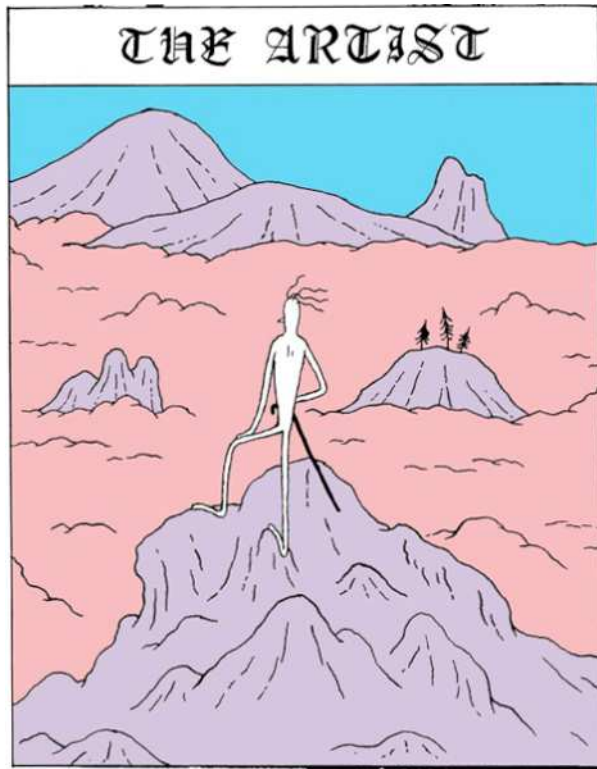
Duration: June 25 until October 16, 2022

**With Solo Exhibitions by: Forum demokratische Kultur und
zeitgenössische Kunst, Anna Haifisch, Gabriella Hirst,
Irène Mélix, Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings**

ARE YOU SEEKING ROMANTIC ADVENTURES?

Kunsthalle Osnabrück launches this year's theme ROMANTICISM

On Saturday, June 25, 2022, at 5 p.m., the Kunsthalle Osnabrück will launch the first part of the exhibition and art mediation programme "Romanticism". Against the backdrop of a global pandemic and a war in Ukraine, Kunsthalle Osnabrück sets out to explore the question: What's the current state of our hope and desire for love, identity and belonging? This year's theme "Romanticism" will use the eponymous art and literature movement as a distorting mirror with which to examine the current state of society. Sweeping across Germany and Europe, hardly any other movement has managed to shape such a strong collective feeling situated between departure, nostalgia and nationalism through aesthetic means.



Anna Haifisch, „The Artist“, 2016, Courtesy of the artist



Gabriella Hirst, „Merchant Marine“, 2021, Courtesy of the artist

Set against the backdrop that is the art gallery's medieval architecture, we want to investigate whether the current sense of global turmoil has inspired a comeback of the visual and linguistic worlds of Romanticism. The forest? The ruin? The artist in bed? What is this telling us? And how can we offer resistance and stand up for freedom in society through the means of art?

The programme includes solo exhibitions and new productions especially created for Osnabrück by national and international artists Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings (UK), Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst (DE), Gabriella Hirst (AU), Anna Haifisch (DE), Irène Mélix (DE), Cemile Sahin (DE) and Andrzej Steinbach (DE). The last two will launch their work at the opening of the second exhibition round on November 5, 2022.

For the entrance area and cloister of Kunsthalle Osnabrück, the artist Anna Haifisch developed several table sculptures and a new narrative image series in which she lets "The Artist" explore the city of Osnabrück. Anna Haifisch is a comic artist and illustrator. With a humorous and revealing take on our society, she portrays her protagonists as animals. Haifisch became known for her comic "The Artist" – a tormented, skinny bird that can be viewed as a mirror of the modern-day struggles artists face under neoliberalism, but also as a reckoning with the arts industry and the ever-present, contradictory idea of art as a creative and higher calling.

Gabriella Hirst's archive of living and dying plants, which has continuously been growing since 2014, reveals a complex history, reflected in the breeder's naming of plant varieties based on historical events. The installation "Battlefield", conceived for the courtyard of the Kunsthalle Osnabrück, references the construction of both military drill formations and

historical garden designs and focuses on plant cultivars as representing historical heritage and the culture of remembrance. The approximately 200 plant varieties used have been named after famous battles, conquered territories, generals or weapons.

Working across film, painting, drawing and performance, Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings address the socio-cultural and political structures that reinforce conservatism and discriminatory practices within and around the LGBTQI+ community. For their solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle Osnabrück, the artists will present a new installation, "Inside", which combines a multi-channel sound work with fifteen found dollhouses representing various domestic architectural styles. Sourced in the UK, the houses date from the late 19th century to the present day.

As part of their artistic practice, the Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst (Forum DCCA) employs a method of cultural critique to focus on the cultural continuities of racism and antisemitism. Building on from their examination of different waves of Romanticism and ethno-nationalist ideas in the "Völkisch" movement, the Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst will present two new video works in the installational setting of a ruin. In their work, they explore the political and cultural impact and reciprocal nature of Romanticism and antisemitism as well as a continued rejection of modernity up until the present day.

Irène Mélix is an artist with a strongly activist-based approach. In Osnabrück, she traces moments of historic and contemporary queer encounters. Throughout the project, she will be offering opportunities for collective participation and interaction. Based on extensive research in archives, personal interviews with queer people of all generations and political activists, the common search for queer life with the people of Osnabrück will translate into a diverse range of event formats.

The exhibitions will be complemented by an extensive programme of art mediation and events. Starting in November, there will be two more solo exhibitions on this year's theme by Cemile Sahin and Andrzej Steinbach.

This year's programme "Romanticism" will be largely funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes).

(61 lines à 79,2 keystrokes, 4830 characters without heading, including spaces)

Short Text

From June 25, 2022, Kunsthalle Osnabrück will present the first part of the exhibition and art mediation programme "Romanticism". The programme will include solo exhibitions and new productions especially created for Osnabrück by national and international artists Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings (UK), Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst (DE), Gabriella Hirst (AU), Anna Haifisch (DE) and Irène Mélix (DE). Against the backdrop of a global pandemic and a war in Ukraine, Kunsthalle Osnabrück sets out to explore the question: What's the current state of our hope and

desire for love, identity and belonging? This year's theme "Romanticism" will use the eponymous art and literature movement as a distorting mirror with which to examine the current state of society. Sweeping across Germany and Europe, hardly any other movement has managed to shape such a strong collective feeling situated between departure, nostalgia and nationalism through aesthetic means. Set against the backdrop that is the art gallery's medieval architecture, we want to investigate whether the current sense of global turmoil has inspired a comeback of the visual and linguistic worlds of Romanticism.

(15 lines à 79,8 keystrokes, 1197 characters without heading, including spaces)

Press Contact

Kristina Helena Pavićević

+49 (0)171 744 86 87

pavicevic@osnabrueck.de



Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst, "Das Palmenhaus ist abgebrannt", created in 2022 as part of their installation "Walhalla to Birkenau", for the exhibition and art mediation programme "Romanticism", Kunsthalle Osnabrück, 2022. Courtesy of Fabian Bechtle and Leon Kahane.

Information on the Solo Exhibitions of This Year's Programme

Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst

Walhalla to Birkenau

June 25, 2022–October 16, 2022

Anna Haifisch

Homi

June 25, 2022–March 5, 2023

Gabriella Hirst

Battlefield

June 25, 2022–March 5, 2023

Irène Mélix

diamond splinters – osna's queerstory

June 25, 2022–March 5, 2023

Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings

Inside

June 25, 2022–October 16, 2022

Cemile Sahin

A Song of Tigris & Euphrates

November 5, 2022–March 5, 2023

Andrzej Steinbach

Verschont mein Haus, zündet andere an (Spare my house, set others on fire)

November 5, 2022–March 5, 2023

CVs / Solo Exhibitions

The **Forum demokratische Kultur und zeitgenössische Kunst (DE)** is run by artists Fabian Bechtle and Leon Kahane. It was founded in 2018 as a project of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation (Amadeu Antonio Stiftung). Most recently, the Forum DCCA launched the series "Continuities of Antisemitism" (Kontinuitäten des Antisemitismus) at Volksbühne Berlin (2020/21), collaborated with Hito Steyerl for their exhibition at Kunstsammlung Nordrhein Westfalen, K21 and developed a piece called "Anti-modern Continuities" (Antimoderne Kontinuitäten) for Weserburg Museum für Moderne Kunst Bremen (both in 2020). The exhibition at Kunsthalle Osnabrück will be their first institutional solo exhibition.

Besides publishing her own works, **Anna Haifisch (DE)** regularly draws for newspapers and magazines such as The New Yorker, Frieze, Die Zeit, The Guardian, FAX or Texte zur Kunst. Most recently, her works were shown at the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, the Musée du Papier, Angoulême (both in 2020) and in the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg (2019). In 2020, she was commissioned to draw the series "Drawn to MoMa" by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Her most recent publications include

the complete edition of “The Artist“ at Reprodukt (2022) and “Residenz Fahrenbühl“ at Spector Books (2021). Her books have already been translated in several languages. She has been awarded, among others, the Max-und-Moritz-Preis as best German-language comic artist (2020) and the LVZ-Kunstpreis (2021).

Gabriella Hirst (AU) lives and works in Berlin and London. She currently teaches as a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art, London. Her work is exhibited internationally, including at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (2021), Goethe Institut, London, CAC Vilnius (2020), or Focal Point Gallery, UK. She has received numerous awards and grants, including most recently the ACMI Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (2020). The exhibition at Kunsthalle Osnabrück will be the artist's first institutional solo show in Germany.

Irène Mélix (DE) is an artist and cultural studies scholar. She lives and works in Dresden. In 2020 she started her Phd at Bauhaus University in Weimar. She used to be a lecturer at the University of Technology in Chemnitz (2020) and Dresden University of Fine Arts (2019). Most recently, her work has been shown in international solo and group exhibitions such as at the Schwulen Museum (Gay Museum) in Berlin (2021), the Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale (2019), the Jedna Dva Tři Gallery, Prague, or at the Fondazione Sandretto, Turin (both in 2018).

The artist duo Hannah Quinlan (UK) and Rosie Hastings (UK) live and work in London. Their work is exhibited internationally, including solo exhibitions at Arcadia Missa, London (2021), MOSTYN, Llandudno (2020), Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on Sea (2020) and Isabella Bortolozzi, Berlin (2020). In addition, their work has been shown in group exhibitions including the Future Generation Art Prize, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev (2021), Whitechapel Gallery, London (2020) and Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia (2019). In 2020, they received the Jarman Award for Emerging Film Artists. The exhibition at Kunsthalle Osnabrück will be the artists' first institutional solo exhibition in Germany.

Publication

The exhibition and art mediation programme will be accompanied by a publication with contributions from Heike Geißler, Amanda Leduc, Enis Maci and Pascal Richmann, Marie Rotkopf and Andreas Speit. The publication is free of charge and will be available at Kunsthalle Osnabrück and on our website.

Events and Cooperations

The exhibitions will be complemented by an extensive art mediation programme in cooperation with, among others, the following partners: Dr. Mahret Ifeoma Kupka/Museum für angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt, Prof. Konrad Renner & Christoph Knoth/Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg, Jenny Bohn/Burg Hülshoff – Center for Literature in Münster, Jens Peters/Literaturbüro Westniedersachsen, Prof. Dr. Stefan Lüddemann/Universität Osnabrück, Forum DCCA/Amadeu Antonio Stiftung.

Supporters

Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Kulturstiftung des Bundes, Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien, Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur, Stiftung der Sparkasse Osnabrück, Stiftung Niedersachsen, VGH Stiftung, Freunde der Kunsthalle Osnabrück e. V., VR-Stiftung der Volksbanken and Raiffeisenbanken in Norddeutschland

Media Partners

arte, Missy Magazine, NOZ

arte

**M I S S Y
MAGAZINE**

noz

Kunsthalle Osnabrück | www.kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de
Kunsthalle Osnabrück, Hasemauer 1, 49074 Osnabrück
Due to COVID-19, all information is subject to change –
any changes will be published on our website