



How beautiful you are!

Kosmetiksalon Babette at the KINDL

23 February – 8 March 2020

Maschinenhaus M0

Sonja Alhäuser, BIEST, Marc Bijl, Norbert Bisky, Kirstin Burckhardt, Yvon Chabrowski, Sandra Dresch, Martin Eder, Thomas Eller, Moritz Frei, Isabella Fürnkäs, Gonzalez Haase AAS, Mathilde ter Heijne, Jens Heller, Vera Kox, Via Lewandowsky, Lina Migic, Frank Nitsche, Nik Nowak feat. Isis Scott, Omsk Social Club, Kerstin Schröder, Sorgen International, Jonny Star, Moritz Stumm, Saralisa Volm, Albert Weis

Curated by Maik Schierloh. Curatorial Assistant: Daniela von Damaros

For two weeks, Kosmetiksalon Babette is presenting the group exhibition *How beautiful you are!*, curated by Maik Schierloh, in the Maschinenhaus M0 at the KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art. The exhibition examines the concept of beauty in the art world in various forms of artistic expression: What reasons are there for attending exhibition openings? Is the focus on the works, or is it more about the feeling of belonging to the art world? It questions the pursuit of perfectionism as well as visitors' tendencies toward self-presentation. Is there still room for art here, or are visitors perhaps looking in the wrong direction?

With these kinds of questions, the exhibition opens up a view of works and visitors, of art and artists alike, and attempts to explore the mechanisms and driving forces of the art business. The starting point is beauty in its various facets, as a cultural phenomenon, as a concept full of contradictions—and, not least, as a personal question as we gaze into the mirror each day. Thus, *How beautiful you are!* is part of a long tradition of treating beauty as an aesthetic category. The everyday question of beauty may seem banal at times, but it has been the subject of scientific and philosophical discourse since ancient times.

How beautiful you are! gives a wide range of artists space to deal with the context of the art world and society at the beginning of the 2020s. Beauty is not negotiated as an evaluative category, but as an invitation to an enjoyable experiment. *How beautiful you are!* deliberately dissolves the boundaries between genres of art. Sportswear by Sandra Dresch and video sequences by Moritz Stumm comment on beauty with elements of the urban present, for example. The office of Gonzalez Haase AAS refers to design and architecture and envisions spaces for art.

How beautiful you are! is conceived as a network exhibition in which the many different artistic positions create a unique tension. The medium of painting is represented with a variety of works by Martin Eder, Norbert Bisky, Jens Heller, and Frank Nitsche. Multimedia works by Nik Nowak feat. Isis Scott and Jonny Star form a dialogue with body-related performative works by Yvon Chabrowski and Kirstin Burckhardt and sculptural works by Vera Kox and Albert Weis.

On 7 March 2020, the last evening of the exhibition, a BIEST fashion show will take place at 8 pm at Café Babette in the Sudhaus. The exhibition will continue to evolve up to the end, inviting an ongoing engagement and simultaneously representing an exclamation mark at the beginning of the year 2020 in art.

Dr. Andreas Pagiela

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

Am Sudhaus 3, 12053 Berlin, www.kindl-berlin.de

Opening hours: Wed–Sun, 12–6 pm