

FUTURE – BODIES

A series of lectures and talks
accompanying the exhibition *Double Bind*. Louisa Clement

Magdalena Kröner

“Digital. Virtual. Posthuman?
Dreaming the electric body.”

Lecture

Friday, 16.th, 2021, 6pm, Kunsthalle Gießen



Contemporary artists dream of the fluid, omnipotent “electric body” in their work, about which Walt Whitman raved at the beginning of the 20th century. They use artificial intelligence, augmented reality, immersive staging and robotics to fuse the real and corporeal with the imaginary and the fantastical. They create gender-fluid superimpositions spanning high tech and futurism, thus expanding outdated notions of human anatomy and identity. The digital extensions and duplications of themselves that contemporary artists are currently producing are elastic, adaptable, transhuman. They outline a new kind of interpretive authority over existing social narratives of the body, or they reclaim them. What kind of social pressure for change can such artistic positions generate, and what constraints do they face in turn?

CV

Magdalena Kröner works as a journalist, essayist and art historian in Düsseldorf and the USA. Her writing has been published in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Quarterly, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Kunstforum International, Monopol, Süddeutsche Zeitung and DIE ZEIT, among others.

She has been working extensively in the fields of digital art, technology and body politics since 2016, conducting several research projects in the USA and publishing widely on the topic.

Furthermore, her work also includes research into alternative art scenes outside of the western art capitals. For this purpose, she undertook extensive research abroad, in the Arab Emirates, the Baltic States, China, South Africa and Southeast Asia. Between 2005-2015, she held a second residence in New York, where she worked for German media. In 2021, she was awarded the Thomas Mann Fellowship.

Registration and hygiene practices

The events are open to the public and will be held live at the Kunsthalle, registration at kunsthalle@giessen.de (limited seating).

Free entrance.

To access the event, you need a negative corona test result, that is not older than 24 hours or proof of full vaccination. We also ask you to wear a medical mask during the entire event.

In accordance with the Corona regulations, we will collect participants contact details and ask that you comply with the A H A rules.

Thank you for your understanding.

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Photo: Louisa Clement. body fallacy #20, 2021
Courtesy Cassina Projects

A series of events hosted by Kunsthalle Gießen in cooperation with the Institute für Kunstpädagogik, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

The Kunsthalle Gießen presents artist Louisa Clement's (*1987) most recent series of works in the exhibition *Double Bind*, on show until 26th August 2021.

In her current works, Louisa Clement departs from the familiar terrain of supposedly unambiguous bodily definitions, and creates with her *Repräsentantinnen* (2021) a kind of hybrid being that eludes explicit classification. They are dolls, mobile and sexually functional, which not only bear the facial features of their creator, but can also – as far as technically possible – imitate human facial expressions. In this work, the artist draws on historical phantasms of women's bodies as automata and dolls: from E.A. Poe's *Olympia* and E.T.A. Hoffmann's *Sandman* to Hans Bellmer's doll-body modules, Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* and Pierre Molinier's pornographically grotesque photographs. Furthermore, Clement initiates a far-reaching discourse that extends all the way to today's use of artificial intelligence and sex robots. It is

KUNSTHALLE GIESSEN

Kunsthalle Gießen
Berliner Platz 1
D-35390 Gießen | Germany
+49 (0) 641-306 1040
kunsthalle@giessen.de
kunsthalle-giessen.de

not only the sexuality, gender and gender construction of these artificial beings that is the focus of this discussion, but also how these human-machines, fed with artificial intelligence, communicate. What will the human bodies of the future look like? What will the artificial ones look like? How do robots influence our ideas of beauty, of femininity, masculinity and transgender? Can you fall in love with robots, do they have feelings?

The Kunsthalle Gießen is organising this series of lectures and talks in cooperation with the Institute für Kunstpädagogik at the Justus Liebig University in order to discuss these subjects and questions.

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