

## FUTURE – BODIES

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

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### Prof. Susanne Regener

Real Dolls. On the cultural change of object love  
Lecture

Friday, 23 July 2021, 6pm, Kunsthalle Gießen



Sex dolls, or so-called *Real Dolls*, have become luxury items. Their market value is on the rise in both the Western and Asian worlds. Recently, especially human-like examples of this species have been equipped with artificial intelligence. It is primarily heterosexual men who are not only looking for sexual satisfaction, but also for a life partner.

Those who associate with *Real Dolls* join a sphere of outsiders in internet forums, who design and negotiate their own rules for communication and visuals, as well as aesthetic demands.

The lecture will examine the pop-cultural phenomenon of the sex doll and its medial modes of representation with a cultural-historical consideration. What significance does interacting with puppets have for relationships between the sexes? Is this love of an object becoming something 'normal' within our society?

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## CV

Susanne Regener is Professor of Media History and Visual Culture at the University of Siegen, and an affiliate professor at the University of Copenhagen. She works on media representations of social outsiders and questions such as: who is the other?

She lives in Berlin and Siegen.

[www.mediengeschichte.uni-siegen.de](http://www.mediengeschichte.uni-siegen.de)

## Registration and hygiene practices

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

In addition to the event in presence the lecture can be attended via livestream.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYej9CQ7b8qAAQyuUdeqTKg>

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 #7, 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 of 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

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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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