



Press Release

LENA HENKE. MY FETISH YEARS 8TH RUBENS PRIZE PROMOTIONAL AWARD FROM THE CITY OF SIEGEN



Lena Henke, UR Tritt, 2019
Courtesy of the artist and Bortolami Gallery New York. Photo by John Berens

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Lena Henke (born 1982) is the new winner of the 8th Siegen Promotional Award of the Rubens Prize 2019. The award includes prize money of € 5,000 as well as an exhibition and a publication. The festive award ceremony will take place at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, at 6 p.m. on September 27th. Afterwards, the exhibition "My Fetish Years" opens with works by the artist produced during the last ten years.

Overview of dates:

Award ceremony and exhibition opening:

Friday, September 27th, 6 p.m.

Words of welcome: Thomas Thiel, Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen

Award presentation by Steffen Mues, Mayor of the City of Siegen

Laudatio: Stefanie Böttcher, Kunsthalle Mainz

Press conference:

Thursday, September 26th, 12 noon

Lena Henke will be available for personal interviews.

Travel/Accommodation:

We are happy to assist with your planning!



Portrait Lena Henke
Photo by Gina Folly

Lena Henke. My Fetish Years
8th Promotional Award of the City of Siegen's
Rubens Prize
September 27th, 2019 to January 26th, 2020

A bright yellow shape made from weather-resistant synthetic rubber – a sleeping elephant as well as postmodern architecture; a bright red hoof made of Forton, alternating between a horse's foot, a tree trunk and a brick; a sculptural family group cast in deep purple rubber – simultaneously a portrait of a collection of figurative 20th century sculpture.



Lena Henke, Aldo Rossi's Sleeping Elephant, 2018
Courtesy of the artist, Emanuel Layr Gallery Vienna & Rome
and Bortolami Gallery New York. Photo by Gunnar Meier

Lena Henke (born 1982 in Warburg, currently lives and works in New York) often arranges her diverse

sculptural works in space-consuming installations. Her works of art are reminiscent of urban planning and Land Art; they address themes such as interpersonal relationships, sexuality, and fetishism. Henke always infiltrates the patriarchal structures of art history in a quirky manner, often with a humorous undertone. Employing strategies of intervention, appropriation and control, the artist examines her work in relation to herself and her family environment. Her formal language contains references to Minimalism, which she combines with surrealist motifs. In this way Henke investigates street life and explores the ideas of urban planners and urban theorists such as Jane Jacobs, Roberto Burle Marx and Robert Moses.

The exhibition "My Fetish Years" at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen sees itself as looking back into the future. The most comprehensive solo exhibition to date of the Rubens Promotional Award winner provides an overview of ten years of artistic production. In addition, new groups of works will be developed specifically for Siegen and artistic questions will be combined with future prospects.



The Promotional Award of the City of Siegen's Rubens Prize

Alternating with the "major" Rubens Prize, which is awarded for a life's work in painting, the City of Siegen in cooperation with the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen presents the Rubens Promotional Award for outstanding young artistic talent every five years. As the 8th prizewinner, Lena Henke follows Vajiko Chachkhiani (2014), Diango Hernández (2009), Peter Piller (2004), Silke Rehberg (1999), Karin Sander (1994), Julia Lohmann (1989) and Max Neumann (1984).



Lena Henke, UR-Mutter, 2019
Courtesy of the artist and Bortolami Gallery New York. Photo by John Berens

Further information at www.mgk-siegen.de

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