

PARALLEL VIENNA GALLERY STATEMENT 2023

Dates:

September 6th - 10th, 2023
from 1 PM to 8 PM

Location:

Otto Wagner Areal
Baumgartner Höhe 1
1140 Vienna

Preview: September 5th, 1 PM - 5 PM

Opening: September 5th, 5 PM - 10 PM

VERONIKA MERKLEIN

The sore Spot II

galerie michaela stock Pavilion 22 / 1st Floor / Room 106

In the solo presentation *Der wunde Punkt II (The Sore Spot II)* designed for PARALLEL VIENNA 2023 performance artist Veronika Merklein focuses on silent pain and quietly scratching on the bottom of nightmarish life events, depressing emotional intensity and mute conversations with one another. Veronika Merklein's work is always personal, but not necessarily autobiographical.

Using imagery and poetic language, the artist shows a dry understanding of a situation that cannot be changed. Her strategy is to capture unspeakable personal, social and political problems in ways ranging from humorous to painful, and to make them visible and speak for those people who are incapable of doing so at this moment.

The works *Sitting in the Closet* and *The Silent Neighbor* serve as examples of the mentioned societal "wounds." Instances such as suicide depicted with a smiley balloon or an anthropomorphic, prone body within a neglected apartment showcase how Merklein stages her own body as both the subject and object in her art. Over time, this utilization even leads to a displacement of her body within the artworks themselves. The performance documentation *I Didn't Say Anything* features a comic-style photo story that tackles the sensitive topic of sexual abuse. As if she had broken through the wall herself, Merklein positions herself in the artwork titled *Thank You* amidst a desolate building. Her presence exudes a sense of determination, as if she aims to conquer the entire world all at once.

Curriculum Vitae

Veronika Merklein (*1982) is a German performance and photo artist, political activist. She lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Veronika Merklein enjoyed her artistic education at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (AT) and the Kunsthochschule Kassel (DE). She has presented her work at the Wiener Festwochen (AT), Dom Museum Vienna (AT), Städtische Galerie Nordhorn (DE), Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago (US), Neuer Kunstverein Wien (AT), Kaskadenkondensator in Basel (CH), Fridericianum in Kassel (DE), Secession in Vienna (AT), Kiasma in Helsinki (FI), and repeatedly at home.

Veronika Merklein has received grants & fellowships from, among others, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York City (US) & Ottawa (CA), from Austrian federal grants, the City of Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In 2023, she was awarded the Austrian State Scholarship for Visual Arts.