

## Portrayed?

**Group exhibition in August / September 2019**

**Neues Archiv, Burg Wertheim / Germany**

**ART-isotope · Gallery Axel Schöber**

For centuries the artist's way of portraying a person has been and still is a mayor challenge.

Artists using their freedom created excellent portraits by letting the observer recognize the portrayed person in his/her nature and characteristic features. In the meantime for lack of clients the focus of portrait art including portrait photography altered. It changed to a general interpretation of a person by processing photos of internationally known stars and VIPs. 3D printed busts and animated fantasy faces are turning up.

For a passport photo, biometric aspects have to be followed and when unlocking a current smart phone three – dimensional aspects are involved. The cosmetic surgery and cosmetic industry are trying to set standards for human appearance. Economy and state security institutions try to find out and evaluate where people are, what they do, where they stay and even what they feel.

Nowadays the photography (passport photo, selfie, video surveillance, etc.) of a person or of his/her face gets an enormously high importance.

In Contemporary Art you'll find different starting points (approaches):

In the 50 parts group HEADS, the painter Louisa Clement works with neutral ciphers to simulate a human head, Sterling Crispin experiments with digitally formed masks that cover faces. The photographer Wolf Nkole Helzle tries to portray the HOMO UNIVERSALIS by overlying hundreds of standardized portrait photos. Elena Steiner adds disgusting or surrealistic materials to her portraits and in that way serves the recognition effect which very often is wanted by the art market.

Cora Volz creates three-dimensional busts using different self-coloured materials and so gives her sculptures an almost ancient touch of dignity. Rosa Verloop uses coloured pins to put the nylon-veiled textile heads under tension and follows primarily a certain logic of morphing.

Especially in the working group BLACK PAINTINGS the artist Justine Otto partly dissolves the 'person' in a great artistic dynamism but nevertheless the form of the head and the characteristics of the portrait are recognizable. Marc Taschowsky forces the icons of the media world onto small canvases and by stringing them creates an almost stage-like performance. Whereas the sculptress Mechthild Ehmman and the painter Tai Shan Schierenberg cultivate the classical art of portrayal in an excellent way and emphasize the nature and the character of the portrayed person. Despite the applications of current every day objects the portrait photos of Hendrik Kerstens remind you of classical painting of the 17th century.

The exhibition 'Portrayed?' on the one hand is intended to show exemplary, artistic positions (with different techniques or approaches) and on the other hand to remind us of the meaning of the face as well as the facial expressions.

The accompanying program of the exhibition includes drawings by Horst Janssen and live sketching.

### **Artists (in alphabetical order)**

• Eberhard Bitter, Wuppertal (accepted) • Sterling Crispin (inquired) • Mechthild Ehmman, Dachsberg (accepted) • Wolf Nkole Helzle (inquired) • Gregor Kalus, Hamburg (inquired) • Hendrik Kerstens, Amsterdam (inquired) • Justine Otto (inquired) • Afarin Sajedi, Teheran (inquired) • Conrad Schierenberg (inquired) • Tai Shan Schierenberg (inquired) • Elena Steiner, Wien (inquired) • Marc Taschowsky, Berlin (accepted) • Rosa Verloop (inquired) • Cora Volz, Mainz (inquired) • etc.

### **Contact**

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