

Deidi von Schaewen Wrapped City

Curator: Michèle Champenois
Opening: November 21, 2019, 5pm

Duration:
November 22, 2019 - January 26, 2020
KHB LAB
Nám. SNP č. 12, Bratislava



Kunsthalle Bratislava is honored to host a solo exhibition of the French artist of German origin – Deidi von Schaewen. Her work is mainly devoted to the photography of architecture with a distinctive conceptual accent. In the Kunsthalle LAB, she will stage a tailored monumental wall photo-collage titled *Wrapped City*. Deidi von Schaewen is also active in the area of arts and broader cultural projects (books, films, scenes, graphic design). Her artwork was exhibited in well-known institutions such as the Centre of Pompidou, Museum of Modern Art in Paris or Fondation Miró in Barcelona.

First solo exhibition in Bratislava

The key works within the cycle *Wrapped City* were created on the occasion of her solo presentation in Bratislava. The use of **large format printouts** responds to the specific spatial conditions of the Kunsthalle LAB Gallery. At the same time, it takes into account the visitors who walk through the exhibition space. The artwork from the cycle *Wrapped City* is based on the principle of **collage**.

In her creations, **Deidi von Schaewen (*1941, Berlin)** examines the urban space in which she searches for fragments, crumbled walls, faded coatings and covered sights. She discovers and captures massive scaffolding and sheeting that creates some sort of ephemeral sculptures and evokes the impression of multiple planes of reality. She photographs ruins in a similar way to what can be seen in the paintings of the 18th century. This way, she approaches visual arts. Not only is she pursuing impersonal architectural photography, she also uncovers the poetics of everyday objects and captures the variability of contemporary urban life in her work. She is looking for meanings in the unnoticed urban scenes and spaces, environment of peripheral societal layers, and in the coherent series uncovering the attractiveness of improvised solutions.

The "restoration" of building walls

Deidi von Schaewen graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts (Hochschule für Bildende Künste) in Berlin, but eventually decided to pursue photography. In one of her first shots she captured an advertisement on the wall and noticed that the old wall is obscured by scaffolding. This is where her passion to "restore" the building walls was born.

Aged 24, she left Berlin for Barcelona where her artistic creation was significantly influenced by personal contact with the representatives of the early avant-garde. She came to know the art group from Cadaqués, Salvador Dali, Duchamp and Man Ray. Alongside Peter Harden, she participated in the preparations of the *Expo 67* World's Fair in Montreal.

Walls replaced by scaffolding tarps

In 1965 she was taken by the view of the large department store El Corte Inglés on Plaza Catalunya in Barcelona, which completely disappeared under the monumental tarps. This aesthetic shock was at the birth of the second series of photos: the walls were replaced by scaffolding sheets and tarps.

Painted houses of Africa and India

Her other passions include the painted houses of Africa and India. This interest made her establish the association *Women of Hazaribag* whose mission is to help the villagers in the northeast of India where she often returns and where the dying tradition of painted houses is still surviving. Her artistic creation is intertwined with activism and conservation of cultural memory.

Contact person for the media

Zuzana Böhmerová
PR and Fundraising Manager
zuzana.bohmerova@kunsthallebratislava.sk
0918 817 126