

KUNSTVEREIN BIELEFELD  
PRESSE

Welle 61  
33602 Bielefeld

PRESS

Do, Fr, 15:00–19:00  
Sa, So, 12:00–19:00  
Mo–Mi, nach Vereinbarung

PRESS RELEASE

03.02.2020

JULIE BÉNA  
Les lèvres rouges  
15.02. – 26.04.2020

Opening: 14.02.2020, 19:00

14.02.2020, 11:00  
PRESS PREVIEW with Julie Béna and Nadine Droste

14.02.2020, 19:00  
OPENING

Speakers:  
Andreas Wannemacher (Chairman, Kunstverein Bielefeld)  
Marie Graftieux (Head of the Bureau des arts  
plastiques, Institut français Germany)  
Nadine Droste (Director, Kunstverein Bielefeld)

15.02.2020, 15:00  
EXHIBITION CONVERSATION with Julie Béna  
(in English language)

The Kunstverein Bielefeld is delighted to present *Les lèvres rouges*, the first institutional solo exhibition in Germany by the French artist Julie Béna. The objects, installations, films and performances created by Béna address the forms of representation inherent to cultural narratives. Her works juxtapose motifs from art-historical, theatrical and literary contexts with those from mass media and popular entertainment, in order to interrogate the social determinants of the production and reception of the material. Her Bielefeld exhibition opens up a space of play in which illusion and reality are taken to the point of indistinguishability. In the midst of this enchantment, the spectator becomes all the more aware of societal power relations.

Working across both levels of the Kunstverein exhibition space, Béna develops a scenario populated by spiders, mice, fools, butterflies and flying phalluses, in an installation which ultimately has symbolic significance. Resisting the unequivocal, the piece works around the specifications of the exhibition space, undermining its supposed

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functionality. Here, the materiality of hand-made lacework collides with the technological nature of 3D-printed objects, while digital animated films are confronted traditional puppet theater. Béna's field of reference extends to pilgrim badges, among the earliest of visual mass media, and to panorama pictures, an early technology of popular art. *Les lèvres rouges* subverts fixed cultural definitions in order to imagine a different world calling dominant norms and meanings into question.

Julie Béna (born in Paris in 1982, lives and works in Paris and Prague) has had recent solo exhibitions at Kunstraum London (2020), Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico, the Jeu de Paume Paris, CAPC Bordeaux and the Galerie Joseph Tang, Paris (all in 2019). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at L'Inconnue, Montreal, Drdova Galerie, Prague, the C Arte C, Madrid (all in 2019), BOZAR, Brussels, RUPERT, Vilnius, Chapter New York (all in 2018) and at M Leuven, Belgium (2017). In 2018, she participated in the Rennes Biennale.

## EVENTS

12.03.2020

18:00

GUIDED TOUR of the exhibition with Nadine Droste

19:00

LECTURE as part of International Women's Day.

*Frauen\_Blicke - Ausstellen als feministische Praxis*

by Dr. Britta Hochkirchen (Visual Art Department,

Bielefeld University). In cooperation with the

Künstlerinnenforum Bielefeld-OWL e.V.

14.03.2020

MEMBERS' DAY TRIP to the Museum of Contemporary

Art Siegen. Guided tour through the exhibition

*Unsere Gegenwart* with Thomas Thiel. Visit of the performance *Spa & Beauty Demonstration* by Geumhyung

Jeong. Individual arrival.

Please register at

[mitglieder@kunstverein-bielefeld.de](mailto:mitglieder@kunstverein-bielefeld.de)

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31.03.2020, 19:00  
MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETING

24.04.2020, 19:00  
PERFORMANCE by Julie Béna

25.04.2020, 18:00–01:00  
NACHTANSICHTEN with short guided tours every  
hour, DJs Giorgio MacKaye and Stornoschlüssel,  
and Kampmann Catering

16.02.2020 & 26.04.2020, 17:00  
EXHIBITION TOURS with Nadine Droste

Guided tours through the exhibition with  
Carsten Gude, Julia Thieke and Jana Wieking  
every Sunday 17:00

29.02.2020 & 28.03.2020, 10:00–15:00  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES with Klaus Braun  
Contribution: 15 €  
Please register at  
vermittlung@kunstverein-bielefeld.de

Further information at  
www.kunstverein-bielefeld.de

## PRESS CONTACT

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presse@kunstverein-bielefeld.de

Exhibition views will be available for  
download on our website from 14.02.2020.

## SUNDAYS FREE ADMISSION

Ausstellungsförderung:



Corporate Partner:



Bewirtung:

