

ZÜRICH ART WEEKEND 2020

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH

ART WALK

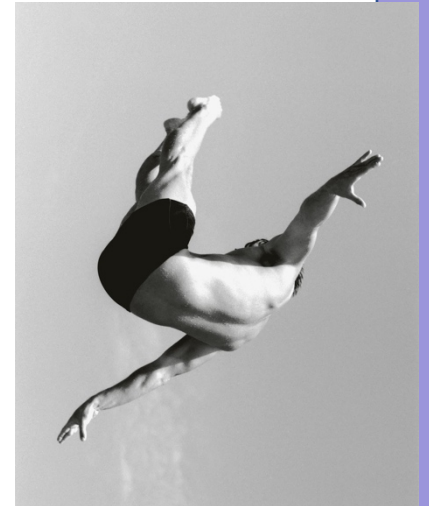
by Chiara Giardi

Starting Point: Kunsthaus Zürich
Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zürich

1. Kunsthaus Zürich

Schall und Rauch: Die wilden 20er
Smoke and Mirrors: the roaring 20s

Curated by Cathérine Hug
3rd July – 11th October



Shirana Shahbazi, [Diver-02-2011],
Kunsthaus Zürich



2. Fabian Lang

Obere Zäune 12, 8001 Zürich

Mira Schor

Here/Then, There/Now

11th September - TBA



Mira Schor, *Light in the Study* (2011)



3. Gasträume 2020 @ Wühre 3 8001 Zürich

Una Szeeman

Les Mains Négatives (2020)

27th June – 20th September



Una Szeeman, *Les Mains Négatives* (2020)



4. Strauhof

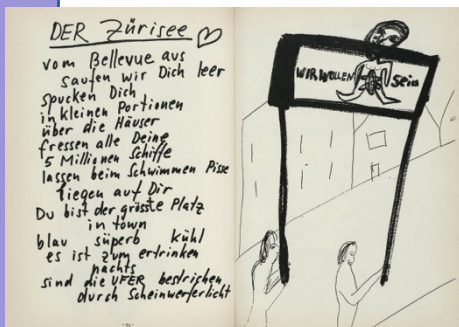
Augustinergasse 9, 8001 Zürich

Ausbruch und Rausch:

Zürich 1975 – 1980 Frauen Kunst Punk

Curated by Bice Curiger and Stefan Zweifel

21st August – 4th October



Vom Katalog 'Saus und Braus.
Stadtkunst' (1980)

Before you start, a little icebreaker:

Name famous artists from the top of your head and write them down here:

Women in the Arts

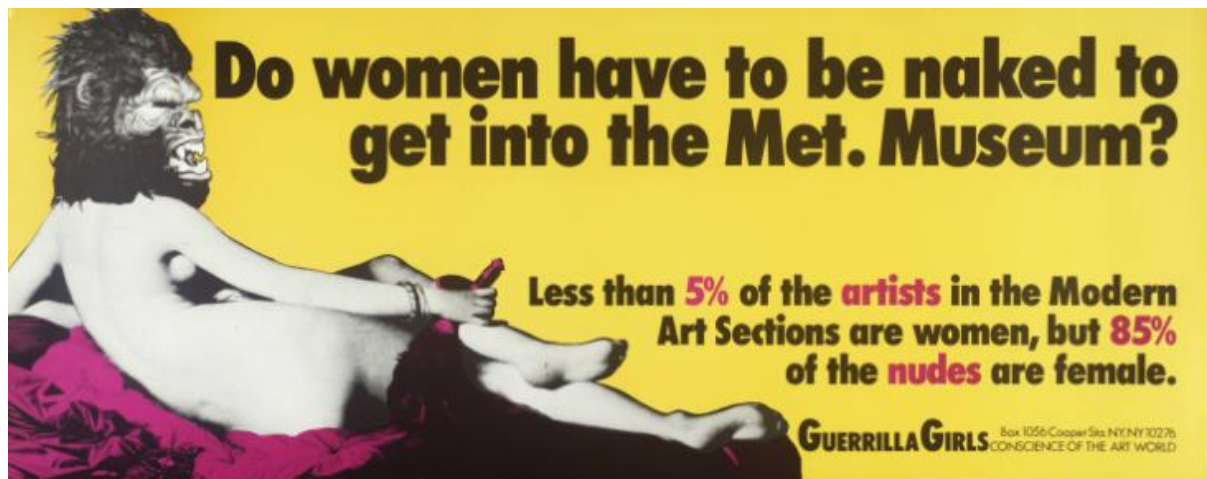
... are there any women in your list?

The discourse on gender has, at least in some circles, long rejected a binary definition of 'just' males and females. The aim of this tour is also not to reinforce this binary vision.

However, if we look at phenomena like gender pay gap or, specifically in the art world, to the ratio of sales at auctions, gallery representation, exhibitions in the most-visited museums and presence in their collections, being a female artist still makes a big difference, and mostly not in a positive sense.

Throughout this tour, I will follow a strategy which was already adopted by the Guerrilla Girls (an anonymous group of feminist activist artists, typically wearing gorilla masks): state the facts.

Here's one of their most famous banners (1989)¹



Poster by Guerrilla Girls (1989)

And now some numbers from Swiss museums based on a study by SWI swissinfo and Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS), with data from 80 Swiss museums, regarding exhibitions between 2008 and 2018. They found out that (only) 26% of the solo exhibitions were by female artists. However, the survey also shows big differences: while the Musée Alexis Forel (Morges) had 81% of solo exhibitions by women, many others didn't have any.

The Kunsthaus Zurich stops by 15%, legitimizing the ratio based on its collection, on the 'canon' of the last 600 years, and most importantly, on what 'the public' allegedly wants to see.

As members of this 'public', let's show that that's not always true! By paying attention to whose work we look at, you can increase female artists' visibility and representation.

And now, let's have a look at the first exhibition!

¹ 'Naked Through The Ages', Guerrilla Girls, accessed 14 September 2020, <https://www.guerrillagirls.com/naked-through-the-ages>.

1. Kunsthaus Zürich

Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zürich

Schall und Rauch: Die wilden 20er / Smoke and Mirrors: The roaring 20s

3rd July – 11th October, opening hours online

Did you realise that we've just entered the 'new' 20s?

In this exhibition, you'll see artists of the 'old' 20s are side by side with contemporary ones, reflecting and reinterpreting social and aesthetic aspects of that decade. After a bloody and draining World War 1, the 20s was a time which, for people living in cities like Zurich, Berlin, Paris and Vienna, was marked by a hunger for the new and the spectacle. Artistic movements and schools, like Dada, Bauhaus, New Objectivity, Avant-garde Film and Photography developed in these years. Here, they are all presented side by side, a heterogeneity which is reflected in the title *Schall und Rauch*, meaning something which cannot be defined, but also a famous cabaret in Berlin and a magazine of the 'old' 20s. Women also play a central role...

Feel free to explore the exhibition at your own pace and here's a little game for you: while you walk through the exhibition, try to spot works by female artists. Additionally, you could also have a look at how male artists portrayed women in this period. Enjoy!

After your visit

Have you spotted Hannah Höch's, Marianne (My) Ullmann's and Elizabeth Karlinsky's collages and paintings? Have you seen Coco Chanelle's little black dress? Did you know that *Fauteil Grand confort, petit modèle* (LC2), the famous club chair, was actually a group project which also included Charlotte Perriand? And have you seen the Frankfurt kitchen, a project carried out by Laura Gerlach and Margarete Schütte-Lihotsky, to design a kitchen which could optimize cooking? Also, the cover picture is by a Zürich-based female artist, Shirana Shahbazi.

Back to the facts, did you know that...

Three of the most-visited museums in the world, the British Museum, the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum never had female directors.²

And that...

Women make up a majority of professional art museum staff; despite recent gains, they remain underrepresented in leadership positions.³

On your way to Fabian Lang, don't miss one of **Harald Nägeli's** works inspired by the dance of death (*Totentanz*) and realized during the first months of the current pandemics. You find it on one corner of the Lydia-Welt-Escher-Hof (just behind the Kunsthaus). Harald Nägeli started spraying in Zurich in the 70s and this year, at the age of 80, he was awarded the Art Prize of the city.

² You find all the statements in italics on the 'Get the facts' page of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (<https://nmwa.org/support/advocacy/get-facts/>)

³ Mariët Westermann, Roger Schonfeld, and Liam Sweeney, 'Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey 2018' (The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Ithaca S+R, 2019), https://mellon.org/media/filer_public/b1/21/b1211ce7-5478-4a06-92df-3c88fa472446/sr-mellon-report-art-museum-staff-demographic-survey-01282019.pdf.

2. Fabian Lang

Obere Zäune 12, 8001 Zürich

Mira Schor

Here/Then, There/Now

11th September – TBA, opening hours online

Your second stop is a very young gallery. The owner and gallerist Fabian Lang worked abroad for famous art spaces and institutions but recently came back to Zurich to open his own space, which was inaugurated for the Zurich Art Weekend 2019.

Don't be shy, gallerists don't bite! Just get in, have a look around and if you have any questions there will be someone ready to welcome you.

The exhibition Here/Then, There/Now shows works created between 2008 and 2020 by the US-American artist Mira Schor. Mira's oeuvre counts on over 50 years of artistic practice and of scholarly work. Next to her painting, she founded a magazine, published essays and books on feminist art history, criticism, and the status of painting in contemporary art. This is her first solo exhibition outside the USA.

Importantly for this tour, Mira graduated in Painting (MFA) in 1973 after taking part in the Feminist Art Program and the Womanhouse (1972) with Miriam Shapiro and Judy Chicago. The Womanhouse inspired generations of feminists, artists and activists, including the female collective which organized the exhibition Frauen sehen Frauen (Women see Women) in 1975 in the Strauhof, which is the last stop of this tour.

Due to the current pandemic, the artist could not be present even for the opening. However, you may also be able to watch a short film, a dialogue between the gallerist and the artist. Enjoy the show and this beautiful gallery!

Speaking about galleries and markets, did you know that...

Of the 3,050 galleries in the Artsy database, 10% represent not a single woman artist, while only 8% represent more women than men. Almost half represent 25% or fewer women.⁴

There are no women in the top 0.03% of the auction market, where 41% of the profit is concentrated. Overall, 96% of artworks sold at auction are by male artists.⁵

Now head down to the river by walking by the Grossmünster, cross the Limmat on the Münsterbrücke and walk down the riverside called Wühre.

⁴ Clare McAndrew, 'The Art Market 2019' (Art Basel and UBS, 2019), https://d2u3kfwd92fzu7.cloudfront.net/The_Art_Market_2019-5.pdf.

⁵ Fabian Bocart, Marina Gertsberg, and Rachel A.J. Pownall, 'Glass Ceilings in the Art Market', *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3079017>.

3. Gasträume 2020 @ Wühre 3

Una Szeeman

Les Mains Négatives (2020)

27th June – 20th September

Here you find a site-specific work *Les Mains Négatives* by Una Szeeman, a Zurich-based artist. It was created for *Gasträume* (guestrooms) 2020, a project of the taskforce for art in public space of the city of Zurich (Kiör) which funded and installed 15 artworks in 15 public spaces in the city. At Wühre 3 you will find a big bench-like parallelepiped of granite with a big metallic ring moulded by finger traces fixed on the top.

Les mains négatives closely interacts with its surroundings by making visible a history which is now invisible. It is the history of the river Limmat as an important waterway for transport and trading. Big metal rings like the one we see in the work used to be placed along the banks to facilitate the transit and to anchor boats. Moreover, the finger traces on the ring bring the past to the present by showing the traces of the numerous hands which worked with these objects. These traces would not normally be visible on a metallic shape. However, the soft, organic form of Szeemann's ring let us experience them in the present, in a beautiful contrast between the severity of the granitic base and the round shape of the ring.

Are you ready for the last stop? Then walk up the hill until the Strauhof to hear even more about the history of the city and how it was shaped and now told by important women.

Did you know that...

Just 11% of all acquisitions and 14% of exhibitions at 26 prominent U.S. museums over the past decade were of work by female artists.⁶

But also, to walk to the next stop on a more positive note...

From 2011 to 2017, the Venice Biennale featured 26–43% women artists. The 2019 edition of the major international exhibition of contemporary art finally achieved gender parity, with 53% women artists.⁷

⁶ 'Museums Claim They're Paying More Attention to Female Artists. That's an Illusion.', artnet News, 19 September 2019, <https://news.artnet.com/womens-place-in-the-art-world/womens-place-art-world-museums-1654714>.

⁷ 'An Unusual Time for Women at the Venice Biennale', ELEPHANT, 27 April 2019, <https://elephant.art/unusual-time-women-venice-biennale/>.

4. Strauhof

Augustinergasse 9, 8001 Zürich

Ausbruch und Rausch: Zürich 1975 – 1980 Frauen Kunst Punk

Curated by Bice Curiger and Stefan Zweifel

Your last stop is the Strauhof, an exhibition space with a focus on literature and its spatial dimension. The Strauhof is hosted by a 16th-century baroque house. After serving different purposes, in the 50s it became the *Städtische Kunstammer*, hosting contemporary art until the 2000s, when it became a literature museum.

The exhibition *Ausbruch und Rausch* (Rebellion and Noise) looks back at two exhibitions which took place in the same rooms: one in 1975, titled *Frauen sehen Frauen* (Women see Women) and the other in 1980, titled *Saus und Braus. Stadtkunst* (Live in clover. Art of the city). The 2020 exhibition documents a period of provocation, of reflection on –and rebellion against– social and gender roles, for a new self-consciousness and redefinition of who was entitled to make culture and art. Inspired by the Feminist Art Program at CalArts and their Womanhouse (projects which bring us back to Mira Schor), a collective of 35 students, artists, amateurs, including a young Bice Curiger, co-curator of the 2020 exhibition, now world-renowned curator) was given the Strauhof for an exhibition. World-renowned personalities, like Bice Curiger (curator of the 2011 edition of the Venice Biennale and currently director of the Foundation Van Gogh) or the artist duo Fischli/Weiss started their career in this highly explosive mix, where painting, installations, photography, performances, theatre, Punk and New-Wave music mingling into a will to rebel and change.

Unfortunately, the material in the exhibition is not translated into English. However, you can ask for a handout at the desk. Enjoy the visit!

If you'd made it through the whole tour, well done!

I'd be delighted to hear about your tour questions, comments, feedback.

Write me at chiara.giardi@zhdk.ch

Want to know more?

Kunsthaus Zurich: <https://www.kunsthhaus.ch/>

Fabian Lang: <https://fabianlang.ch/>

Gasträume 2020: https://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/ted/de/index/oeffentlicher_raum/kunst_oeffentlicher_raum/initiieren_produzieren/gastraeume/projekte.html

Strauhof: <https://strauhof.ch/>

Guerrilla Girls: <https://www.guerrillagirls.com/>

National Museum of Women in the Arts | Get the Facts:

<https://nmwa.org/support/advocacy/get-facts/>