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Press Info

Birgit Jürgenssen (1949 - 2003) First Posthumous Retrospective

A cooperation between Bank Austria Kunstforum and SAMMLUNG VERBUND

16 December 2010 - 6 March 2011



Birgit Jürgenssen *Ohne Titel (Selbst mit Fellchen)*
Untitled (Self with Little Fur), 1974/77, Color photograph
(c) SAMMLUNG VERBUND Vienna, VBK Vienna

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Birgit Jürgenssen First Posthumous Retrospective

Curated by:

Gabriele Schor, Director & Chief Curator, SAMMLUNG VERBUND

Heike Eipeldauer, Curator, Bank Austria Kunstforum

Press Conference: **15 December 2010, 10.30 AM**
 Bank Austria Kunstforum, Freyung 8, 1010 Vienna

Opening: **15 December 2010, 7 PM**

Duration of exhibition: **16 December 2010 - 6 March 2011**

Location of exhibition: **Bank Austria Kunstforum**
 Freyung 8, 1010 Vienna

Birgit Jürgenssen

On the first posthumous retrospective

Bank Austria Kunstforum and SAMMLUNG VERBUND jointly present the first posthumous retrospective of the work of Birgit Jürgenssen (1949 – 2003). Through their cooperation both companies, Bank Austria and VERBUND, underwrite their commitment to and engagement with contemporary art.

Born in 1949 in Vienna, Birgit Jürgenssen has now found her due place among the internationally renowned representatives of the feminist Avant-garde, owing in large part to the dedicated commitment of the SAMMLUNG VERBUND to her work. Since the early 1970s, she has developed a stylistically diverse and multilayered art, drawing from sources of inspiration such as Surrealism's potential for emancipation, Freudian psychoanalysis, and her engagement with the socio-critical discourse of her generation. At the centre of her subtle oeuvre of drawings and photography one finds the female body and its metamorphosis.

According to Inka Graeve Ingelmann, curator at *Pinakothek der Moderne* in Munich, it is "woman's image, seemingly engrained into our collective memory, which is visibly transformed into a desperate, fragile, unstable construct in Birgit Jürgenssen's work. Yet it is precisely the puzzlement and dissolution of boundaries, which manifest in Jürgenssen's work through parody, provocation and encoding, that open up a multitude of possibilities to rediscover woman's image."

This long-awaited retrospective has been thoroughly prepared by SAMMLUNG VERBUND with the presentation of the first monograph on Birgit Jürgenssen, published in fall 2009 and edited by Gabriele Schor and Abigail Solomon-Godeau.

With more than 250 works on show – among them numerous works from her estate being shown here for the first time – this retrospective offers the unique opportunity to finally rediscover what Inka Graeve Ingelmann calls the "hidden treasure" of Birgit Jürgenssen's work.

Birgit Jürgenssen Short Biography

Birgit Jürgenssen was born in 1949 in Vienna and had studied there at the University of Applied Arts. After having been a lecturer at the University of Applied Arts (Master class Maria Lassnig) for a year, she lectured for more than 20 years at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna (Master class Prof. Arnulf Rainer and Prof. Peter Kogler). Besides her artistic work, she has also worked as a curator for the Vienna Secession (*Wenn die Kinder sind im Dunkeln... / When the children are in the dark...*, 1994) and for the Austrian contribution to the Cairo Biennale 2001. Birgit Jürgenssen died in Vienna on 25 September 2003.

Solo exhibitions include: Vienna (MAK, 2003; Albertina, 1978), Linz (Landesgalerie Oberösterreich 1998), New York (Jack Tilton Gallery, 1984; TZ' Art Gallery, 1997), Southampton (John Hansard Gallery, 1987), Birmingham (Ikon Gallery, 1987), Bristol (Arnolfini Gallery, 1987).

Group exhibitions include: Rome (*Donna: Avanguardia femminista negli anni '70 dalla SAMMLUNG VERBUND di Vienna*, Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna, 2010), Munich ("*Female Trouble*", Pinakothek der Moderne, 2008), Arnheim (*Rebelle, Kunst & Feminisme*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, 2009), New York (Zwirner & Wirth, 2007), Graz (Neue Galerie, 2003).

For a detailed catalogue of Birgit Jürgenssen's work, please visit <http://www.birgitjuergenssen.com>



Birgit Jürgenssen *Nest*, 1979, B/W Photograph
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