

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

JANUARY 19 – MARCH 24, 2013

Ausnahme



ANNA OPPERMANN:
FILIIATIONS

ANDREA PINHEIRO:
BOMB BOOK

MARIANNE WEX:
LET'S TAKE BACK OUR SPACE



Quelle
Quelle 6/1998
(Titelmotiv)

ANNA OPPERMANN: FILIIATIONS

Working predominantly in the 1970s and '80s, Anna Oppermann rigorously questioned what it meant to be an artist. Her philosophical stance and performative approach to artmaking was remarkably prescient. She freely extended works over several iterations continually restaging and reviving originals into new configurations and mutable filiations. What she called "ensembles" are assemblages of photographs, paper scraps, notes, quotes, drawings, photographic canvases and objects, often displayed on and around low, altar-like podiums. As she said, "the form of the ensemble is my offer of interaction... I would like to be a mediator between the different disciplines, between reason and sensual perception, between art and science, between ordinary citizen and outsider."

Attracted to the absurdities and conflicts of everyday life, Oppermann collected a subjective archive of objects that she would use as subject matter for paintings, drawings and photographs. In the Being an Artist ensemble, for example, the installation itself has been rephotographed in a number of different arrangements, creating a type of kaleidoscopic puzzle of shifting perspectives. The *Ensemble about a Book* is a fragmentary reflection on the

book, *A Theory of Emotions*, by Hungarian philosopher Agnes Heller, who considered thought a natural part of feeling.

Anna Oppermann (1940–1993) exhibited over 60 ensembles in her lifetime. She began to exhibit in the early 1970s and had her first major retrospective in 1984. She participated in documenta 6 and documenta 8, and in Venice and Sydney biennales during the 1980s. In 2007, an exhibition of key ensembles and comprehensive publication were produced by the Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart and the Generali in Vienna.

ANDREA PINHEIRO: BOMB BOOK

This 12-volume, 2,450-page book documents the names of every nuclear bomb detonation in the world since 1945. An offshoot of the artist's decade-long research project on nuclear testing and its relationship to the history of photography, this hand-made, boxed work notably sidesteps the photographic altogether. Instead, it consists of one name per page, with pages left blank in the case of unnamed detonations. The accompanying photogravure documents the location of Operation Plumbbob of 1957, the site of a controversial series of tests due to the large number of animals and humans that were used for the test.

Andrea Pinheiro is a Vancouver-based artist, curator and educator who is currently teaching at Algoma University in Sault St. Marie, Ontario. Her photography, printmaking, sculpture and painting has been exhibited widely and is represented by Republic Gallery, Vancouver.

MARIANNE WEX: LET'S TAKE BACK OUR SPACE

From 1972 to 1977, Marianne Wex took thousands of photographs of women and men in the streets of Hamburg in Germany. She worked with a twin lens reflex camera that allowed her to unobtrusively capture the her subjects' body language in public space. From this vast collection she identified patterns and organized the pictures into gender-specific categories. These images, along with others rephotographed from mass media, were assembled into an exhaustive photographic archive and a book entitled *Let's Take Back Our Space: "Female" and "Male" Body Language as a Result of Patriarchal Structures* (1979).

The resulting collection is a quasi sociological study of how we create and present ourselves, and the degree to which gender-specific conditioning and hierarchies are reflected through everyday pose, gesture, and other non-verbal communication. The idiosyncratic categories and proliferation of typologies within Wex's book defy the usual logic of such systems. The subjectivity of this archive's taxonomies are an attempt to overcome the separation between the sciences and everyday life. Going beyond a feminist stance, this work leaves us with the question of what it means to take back our space.

Marianne Wex was born in 1937 in Hamburg, and now lives in Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany. She studied at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg and taught there from 1963 to 1980. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she showed her work in national and international solo and group exhibitions (including at NGBK Berlin, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Bonner Kunstverein, and ICA London). Wex's photo collages were shown in 2009 at Focal Point Gallery in London and in 2012 at the Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe, Germany and Yale Union in Portland Oregon.

ANNA OPPERMANN

Ensemble über ein Buch

(*Ensemble about a Book,*
"Theory of Emotions"), 1981-83

mixed media

Courtesy Estate of Anna Oppermann and
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

Künstler Sein, über die Methode Filiation

(*Being an Artist, On the Filiation Method*),
1979

mixed media

Courtesy Estate of Anna Oppermann and
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

Einzelleinwand (Ahornensemble), 1977

hand-coloured photo emulsion on canvas

Courtesy Estate of Anna Oppermann and
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

"Canvas #5" from Dekor, 1969-79

hand-coloured photo emulsion on canvas

Courtesy Estate of Anna Oppermann and
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

ANDREA PINHEIRO

Bomb Book, 2012

bookwork, edition 1/12

Published by Presentation House Gallery
and Publication Studio, Vancouver

Test structure for a future without windows,
2009

photogravure

Courtesy the artist. Original photo courtesy
National Nuclear Security Administration/
Nevada Site Office.

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Geological Survey, Olivia Whetung and the
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MARIANNE WEX

Let's Take Back Our Space: "Female"

and "Male" Body Language as a Result of
Patriarchal Structures, 1972-77

photo collages

Courtesy Bildwechsel Archive, Hamburg

**Opening Reception and Book Launch on
Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 7 PM**

Andrea Pinheiro and Marianne Wex will be in attendance and introduce their work at 7 PM

Talk on Marianne Wex by Los Angeles writer and artist, Avigail Moss, Saturday, February 2, at 3 PM

Anna Oppermann: Filiations is organized with assistance from the Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin and the Estate of Anna Oppermann.

Bomb Book is a co-publication with Presentation House Gallery and Publication Studio, Vancouver

Marianne Wex: Let's Take Back Our Space is organized by Yale Union, Portland, Oregon, with assistance from Bildwechsel Archive, Hamburg, Germany.

PRESENTATION HOUSE GALLERY

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GALLERY HOURS

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY 12–5 PM

The Presentation House Gallery is grateful for the ongoing support from our funders: The Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, the North Vancouver Arts Office, BC Gaming Commission, Metro Vancouver and Yosef Wosk Foundation.

AUF DEM BODEN LIEGENDE

ARM- UND BEINHALTUNGEN

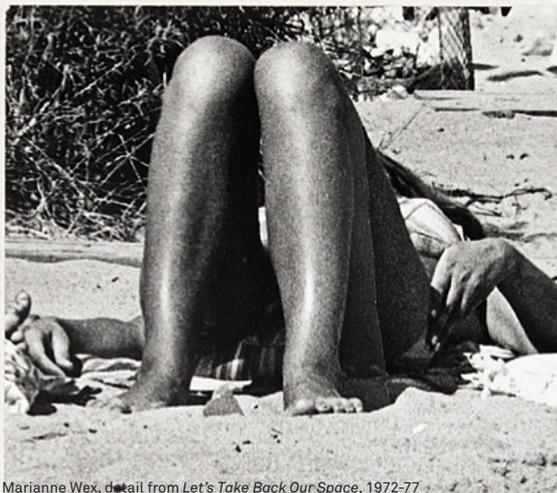


Image: Marianne Wex, detail from *Let's Take Back Our Space*, 1972-77