

# URSULA MAYER

**An Exhibition at the  
Ursula Blickle Foundation  
May 26 – July 7, 2013**



Ursula Mayer, Gonda, Filmstill, 2012

Ursula Mayer (Austria/Great Britain) works primarily with film, photography and live performance, using these media to develop installations that fill entire rooms, in which she explores performative staging and the traditional patterns of perception. In her works, Mayer deconstructs the elements of film-based storytelling in order to undermine the traditional standards of linearity and to question conventional images. Over the last few years, the complex, charged and dynamic images in Mayer's works have earned her praise from many important international institutions.

The starting point for Ursula Mayer's solo exhibition, the first cooperative exhibition project between the Ursula Blickle Stiftung and the 21er Haus, are the films *Gonda* (2012) and *Pheres* (2013). The main actors in the films, Valentijn de Hingh and JD Samson, convey the essence of our time – they refer to the past, in order to try to create a different future, perhaps, or just to imagine one. *Gonda* is based on Ayn Rand (1905 – 1982), the Russian American philosopher, and her concept of Objectivism. In particular, it's about Rand's play *Ideal* from 1934, in which the main actress, Kay Gonda, is forced to confront questions about individualism and personal freedom.

*Pheres* is based on the story of Medea from Greek mythology. Medea believes that she is surrounded by enemies and can only confront them using violence. She does not act in the heat of the moment, but rather has complete control over her own emotions. In 1969, Pier Paolo Pasolini used the story of Medea to illustrate the height of human destructiveness, thereby looking critically at the modern constructions of identity.

The scripts for the films were composed by author and art critic Maria Fusco and the film theorist Patricia MacCormack. Ursula Mayer situates both themes in abstract film settings in which filmic references to Pasolini appear, different genres of film are explored, film and performance overlap and visual levels are presented that appear to be taken from the world of painting, rather than film. The results are two film collages that can be considered visual encyclopedias of objects and cinematic devices. The works in the exhibition do two things: They transcend the limits of cinematic and visual genres in order to put these genres up for discussion, while at the same time introducing a post-dialectical discussion on gender in both form and content. Film has traditionally used its power to strengthen normative classifications. Ursula Mayer uses film to dissolve these traditional differences, in order to question established societal and visual conventions using well-known forms of expression that are brought together in new ways.

Both works are part of a trilogy. The third 16 mm film, which features both of the main actresses, will be completed as a dual projection for the second part of the exhibition in the 21er house in Vienna. Alongside the films, the exhibition will also display objects, installations, collages and photographs. A detailed catalog of the exhibition will be available this fall.

## Biography

Ursula Mayer studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and at Goldsmiths College in London. She won the Msgr. Otto Mauer prize for Fine Arts in 2007 and was a resident of the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York in 2011. Her films have been shown at international film festivals such as Locarno, Oberhausen and Rotterdam.

Selected solo exhibitions: Krobath, Berlin; Performa 11, New York; Galerie Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam; Prospectif cinéma, Centre Pompidou, Paris; Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Frame, Frieze Art Fair, London; Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz; Monitor, Rom; Centraal Museum Utrecht, Utrecht. Selected group exhibitions: 11<sup>th</sup> Baltic Triennial at CAC Vilnius, Vilnius; LUX/ICA Biennial of Moving Images, ICA, London; SculptureCenter, New York; Transmission Gallery, Glasgow; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal; Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm; MoMA PS1, New York; Julia Stoschek Foundation, Düsseldorf; Garage, Moskau; Krobath, Berlin; Swiss Institute, New York; Kunsthalle Basel, Basel; EASTinternational, Norwich; 2<sup>nd</sup> Athens Biennale, Athen; 4<sup>th</sup> Tirana International Contemporary Art Biennial, Tirana

Curator: Bettina Steinbrügge, 21er Haus, Belvedere, Wien

# URSULA MAYER

**An Exhibition at the  
Ursula Blickle Foundation  
26. Mai – 7. Juli 2013**

## **Cooperation: Ursula Blickle Stiftung and the 21er Haus**

The Blickle Cinema in the 21er Haus, the new museum for contemporary art, has already established itself as a premiere location for modern art and film in Vienna. The cinema provides a place for all of the facets of modern film and video production to be presented and opened up for discussion. Filmmakers, curators and artists are continuously invited to defend their works, which in turn creates a forum where participants can learn about the newest trends in contemporary art. The Ursula Blickle Stiftung is a cooperative partner of the Blickle Cinema. The cinema itself was adapted from a 1950s movie theater and was presented as a gift from Ursula Blickle to the museum. The one-of-a-kind public-private partnership will be expanded in 2013 when the Belvedere takes over the Ursula Blickle archive as well as with Ursula Mayer's cooperative exhibition.

### **Exhibition Venue**

#### **Ursula Blickle Foundation**

Mühlweg 18, D-76703 Kraichtal-UÖ  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687  
[www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Press Information**

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, Phone +49 176 23622819  
[presse@ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](mailto:presse@ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Press Images**

Images will be made available on the foundation's website: [www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de](http://www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de)

### **Preview**

Please reserve by telephone or fax:  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

### **Exhibition Dates**

**May 26 – July 7, 2013**

### **Opening Event**

**Saturday, May 25, 2013, 7 p.m.**

Welcome: Ursula Blickle

Introduction: Bettina Steinbrügge

### **Curator**

Bettina Steinbrügge, 21er Haus, Belvedere, Wien

### **Opening Hours**

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.  
and by appointment

### **Closing Event**

**July 7, 2013, 4 p.m.**

### **Lecture and conversation:**

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber,  
art historian, Stuttgart

**We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!**