

Grenchen, 21. April 2020

Press Release

«Rebekka Steiger – boxing the compass»

NEW EXHIBITION DURATION: **March 22 – September 20, 2020**

The Kunsthaus will probably remain CLOSED until June 8, 2020

OPENING HOURS Wed - Sat, 14.00 -17.00 h | Sun, 11.00 -17.00 h | Closed on Monday and Tuesday
The Kunsthaus is open throughout the day when evening guided tours take place

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<https://www.facebook.com/KunsthausGrenchen>



<https://www.instagram.com/kunsthausgrenchen>

Rebekka Steiger – boxing the compass

Rebekka Steiger (*1993, lives and works in Zurich, Lucerne and Beijing) is one of the most exciting young painters in Swiss contemporary art. Her painting is characterized by immediate presence, extraordinary intensity and energetic enthusiasm. The pictorial themes are as familiar as they are enigmatic. Whereas galloping riders, fairylike female figures and mythical creatures used to be the focus of her work, she now creates mysterious landscapes with a colourful flora and abstract paintings. The works fascinate by their oscillation between dream and reality as well as by the richness of allusions that activate and captivate the viewer's imagination. The exhibition in the new building of Kunsthaus Grenchen comprises 12 large format paintings and 14 works on paper from the years 2018 to the present. It is the artist's first major institutional solo exhibition in Switzerland.

PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by a bilingual publication (German / English).

With a preface by Claudine Metzger and an essay by Aoife Rosenmeyer.

(72 pages, 61 color illustrations. ISBN 978-3-906747-15-6, CHF 20.00)

Extract from the preface of the Publication

Claudine Metzger, Artistic Director, Kunsthaus Grenchen

Rebekka Steiger (b. 1993) is among the most stimulating young painters in Swiss contemporary art. Her painting is marked not only by immediacy, rare intensity and energetic enthusiasm, but is equally a means to follow ontological questions regarding life and art. 'boxing the compass', the title of the Kunsthaus Grenchen exhibition focussing on her most recent works, indicates this stance. The term is borrowed from nautical terminology and relates to an attempt to determine all 32 points of a compass in order not to lose one's orientation in continually shifting winds. Yet the title could also be understood as an attempt to enlarge the scope of the environment within which one orients oneself – in order to go further still in a particular direction, even if the regions encountered along the way are unknown. In a certain manner the motto reflects Rebekka Steiger's approach and is informed by the artist's experience, first on a residency in China and in her ongoing life between Beijing and Switzerland. Living in the Asian metropolis has not only increased Rebekka Steiger's interest in the unfamiliar and unpredictable, but equally accelerated the development of her work. This is expressed in the expansion in the range of her motifs as well as in her manner of painting, which is becoming increasingly abstract. While galloping horsemen, fairy-like female figures and fabulous creatures were previously central, enigmatic landscapes with mysterious, colourful flora and abstract pictures are currently emerging. They are visual phantasmagoria that, although fantastical, are never kitsch nor conceived merely to provoke an effect. Balancing between dream and reality, contemporary fables can also be seen in Steiger's work. Rich in symbolism, they possess both the uncanny and comfort, horror and relief. After Rebekka Steiger's initial exhibitions in Switzerland and China, the presentation at the Kunsthaus Grenchen is the artist's first major institutional solo exhibition in Switzerland.

BIOGRAPHY Rebekka Steiger

1993 in Zurich, Switzerland

lives in Zurich, works in Lucerne, Switzerland and Beijing, China

2016 BA (honours) in Fine Arts, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art, Lucerne, Switzerland

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2019

wild is the wind, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland

If you see her, say hello, Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland

2018

猫头鹰–virages nocturnes, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing, China

2017

Sykomore, Kabinettausstellung, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland

AMOR APPROXIMATELY, Galerie Müller, Lucerne, Switzerland

2015

Helen Faigle, Zurich, Switzerland

Selected Group Exhibitions

2018

In my view: a group exhibition of young artists, Meicheng Space, Shenzhen, China

2017

Extended Ground, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland

Rebekka Steiger and Sven Egert, Luzerner Kantonalbank, Lucerne, Switzerland

2016

Jahresausstellung Zentralschweizer Kunstschaffen, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland

“Ohne uns ist keine Kunst”, Interim Use Neustadtstrasse 6, Lucerne, Switzerland

Werkschau Design & Kunst, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art, Lucerne, Switzerland

Bei Helen Faigle (with Alex Zvalen, Anna Gridazzi and Werner Stauffacher), Interim Use

Minervastrasse 9, Zurich, Switzerland

2015

Semester Exhibition 2 BA, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art, Lucerne, Switzerland

2014

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art, Lucerne, Switzerland

Awards

2016 Exhibition Prize, Lucerne Art Society, Lucerne, Switzerland

Advancement Award, Zeugindesign Foundation, Lucerne, Switzerland

Public Collections

Luzerner Kantonalbank, Lucerne, Switzerland

Collection of the cantone of Lucerne, Switzerland

Collection of the city of Lucerne, Switzerland