

AUSBRUCH & RAUSCH ZURICH 1975-1980 WOMEN ART PUNK

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“Actually, one shouldn’t just recommend the people of Zurich visit the new exhibition at the Strauhof exhibition, but send them an official (but from which office?) summons.” Peter Killer, “Guerilla artists at work in Strauhof”

Tages Anzeiger, 21.7.1980

A good forty years ago, two groundbreaking cultural experiments took place in what was then the Municipal Gallery Strauhof, a respectable baroque house in the middle of Zurich’s elegant business center. Using original works, archive materials and film footage, Bice Curiger and Stefan Zweifel retrace the impulses that started a cultural movement in Zurich in and around 1980.

“These are unforgettable communal episodes that, even from today’s perspective, challenge the notion of what culture is and could be. Twice manifestations of anarchy and rebellion flare up, for short periods of time, with impressive public success. Outrageous exhibitions, at once popular, feminist and art-expanding while at the same time serving as collective experiments in culture. Between art and nonart – with fierce bottom-up power – a language reveals itself, candid and captivating in its claim for liveliness.

Because Zurich is big enough to be connected to the symptomatic new phenomena of the time. And just like in a magnifying glass, the interplay of many relevant aspects that still interest us or are of particular interest to us again today can be read here in concentrated form.”

Bice Curiger

FRAUEN SEHEN FRAUEN (“WOMEN SEE WOMEN”), 1975

Elisabeth Bossard, Heidi Bucher, Bignia Corradini, Bice Curiger, Barbara Davatz, Silvia de Stoutz, Nanja Dutly, Carmen Düby, Kathrin FanfaniBühler, Cristina Fessler, Ursula Fürst, Isa Hesse, Regula Heusser, Rosmarie Iten, Bettina Keller, Ursula Klar, Esther Knabenhans, Rosina Kuhn, Ella Lanz, Rut Maggi, Ellen Meyrat, Ruth Möller, Ursula Rodel, Tula Roy, Corinne Schelbert, Cornelia Snozzi, Irene Staub, Doris Stauffer, Katharina Steffen, Judy Trepp, Katrin Trümpy, Ruth Vögtlin, Monica von Castelberg, Sissi Zöbeli and Stefanie Zöbeli

Inspiration for the exhibition came from artist Heidi Bucher’s stories about the *Womanhouse*, a house full of provocative works and stimulating discussions organized by Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro in Los Angeles.

On the occasion of the UN-designated International Women's Year in 1975, women artists, together with amateurs and activists, organized themselves into a 35-person creative feminist collective. Anarchic and rebellious, *Frauen sehen Frauen* oscillates between theatrical installation, "cabinet of intimacy" and educational parkour aimed at provoking a critical examination of the everyday lives of women and prevailing gender roles. In connection with the exhibition, stage performances by the women's informal theater group Frauenrakete took place sporadically at various locations, showing the early influence of the burgeoning punk and new wave music scene.

SAUS UND BRAUS ("LIVING IT UP"), 1980

Hannes R. Bossert, Anton Bruhin, Lisa Enderli, Martin Disler, Olivia Etter, Peter Fischli, David Weiss, Sergio Galli, *TNT*, Samy Gantner, Rosmarie Iten, Dieter Hall, Urs Lüthi, Dieter Meier, Stefan Sadkowski, Klaudia Schifferle with Kleenex / *LiLiPUT*, Barbara Schneider, Stefi Talman, *Hertz*, François Viscontini, Max Wiederkehr, Yello, Sissi Zöbeli, *Mother's Ruin* and Andreas Züst

In early 1980, Bice Curiger's article "Zwischen E-Kultur und Punk" ("Between E-Culture and Punk") in the *KunstBulletin* prompted the city administration to invite them to organize an exhibition at the Strauhof. In the summer, shortly after the outbreak of youth protests, the young art scene as well as punk and new wave bands presented an astonished cultural establishment with the fruits of a completely new self-image, fed by the experiences of urban pop culture.

Along with the exhibition and a "monster concert" of the music scene at the time, they also released a publication *Saus und Braus – Stadtkunst / Statt Kunst* ("Living It Up – Urban Art / No Urbane Art") – all of which would have a far-reaching influence on the "80s movement" and shape a cultural awakening.

Characteristic of *Saus und Braus*, neither a catalogue of works nor official photographic documentation of the exhibition was made.

A detailed catalogue *Ausbruch & Rausch* published by Edition Patrick Frey will accompany the exhibition, including numerous interview transcripts, essays and comprehensive photographic and printed documentation. In addition, Strauhof will publish a reprint of the original *Saus und Braus* catalogue.

Bice Curiger is co-founder of the art magazine *Parkett* and was curator at the Kunsthaus Zürich from 1992–2013 and director of the Venice Biennale in 2011. She is currently artistic director of the Fondation Vincent van Gogh in Arles.

Stefan Zweifel is a translator, presenter, journalist and exhibition organizer, among them *Dada Universal* (2016) and *Imagine 68 – Das Spektakel der Revolution* (2018) with Juri Steiner at the Zurich National Museum. In 2017, he received the Award for Special Cultural Merits from the City of Zurich.

Press tour

With Bice Curiger and Stefan Zweifel
Wednesday, August 19, 10 am at the Strauhof

Supporting program

www.strauhof.ch/veranstaltungen

Imprint

Curation: Brice Curiger and Stefan Zweifel
Design: Studio Marie Lusa, Marie Lusa, Dominique Wyss
Initiative: Gesa Schneider
Coordination Strauhof: Philip Sippel and Rémi Jaccard
Drawing: Anton Bruhin, 1980

For further information, press photos, advance visits and interview requests, please contact info@strauhof.ch.

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