

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY

## LENA HENKE. SLEEPING ELEPHANT

17 February to 28 August 2022

**A yellow elephant appears to be asleep on the floor of the Baroque Carlone Hall—or, on closer inspection, is this actually a toppled row of arches? A sculptural dimension is thus added to this space in the Upper Belvedere, which is adorned with illusionistic trompe l’oeil architecture and a ceiling painting. Lena Henke’s *Aldo Rossi’s Sleeping Elephant* shows her to be a strong, young, female voice in sculpture. The work was given to the Belvedere by a private collector in 2021.**

Architecture, city planning, public space, urban existence, and a dialogue with the lived-in world are recurring themes in Henke’s sculpture. This work’s title refers to the twentieth-century Milanese architect, architectural theorist, and designer Aldo Rossi. In his book *L’architettura della città* (*The Architecture of the City*, 1966), Rossi advocated abandoning modernist dogmas, adapting historical architecture to new roles, and viewing urban planning as an ongoing process.

Henke’s large-scale objects, which she often arranges in spacious installations, and her artistic interventions in public space consciously break with the male connotations that still persist in the field of sculpture. The artist experiments with both innovative techniques and traditional skills, connecting them thematically with the here and now. A preoccupation with materiality, surface, molding and modeling as creative processes are intrinsic to her art.

Lena Henke, born in Warburg (D) in 1982, studied at the Glasgow School of Art and the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main under Michael Krebber. She lives and works in Berlin and New York. In 2015 she was awarded the GWK Art Prize. Lena Henke has exhibited at Kunsthalle Zürich, Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, and the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. Her works are in acclaimed collections, such as the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; ICA Miami, Sammlung Verbund, Vienna; Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl, and Kunsthalle Bielefeld.

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY is a biannual exhibition series that showcases contemporary artworks in the Carlone Hall at the Upper Belvedere. Artists engage with

### Contact

Belvedere Public Relations

T +43 (01) 795 57-177

M [press@belvedere.at](mailto:press@belvedere.at)

[www.belvedere.at](http://www.belvedere.at)

# belvedere

the Baroque pictorial program of the frescoes and build a bridge between the classical world of Apollo and Diana and the present.

Curated by Stella Rollig

Curator's Assistant: Johanna Hofer

**Contact**

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