

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY

Ines Doujak. *Hera*

2 March – 23 September 2018

The ancient goddess Hera is commonly known as the wife of Zeus, guardian of hearth and family, as well as a betrayed spouse. At the Upper Belvedere, however, she will be observed from another point of view. Larger than life, she kneels on a table with her blouse pushed up, plucking out a hair from her chin. We are presented with an intimate moment, accentuated by the smell of frankincense emanating from an opening in her body, the pleasing aroma of which seems to be the only sign of her divinity. It is with this work that Austrian artist Ines Doujak will begin a series of contemporary interventions at the Upper Belvedere, starting in March 2018.

Hera by Ines Doujak represents the first in a series of interventions that will accompany the collection's revival in the Upper Belvedere starting in 2018. These works will be shown on the ground floor of the Carlone Hall and will play off the mythological frescoes within the space. In a six-month rotation format, artists will develop their perspectives in harmony with the frescoed hall's Baroque aesthetic, bridging the world of gods like Apollo and Diana from antiquity with the present day. The intimate and private nature of Doujak's heroically-sized sculpture is diametrically-opposed to the typical representation of such Olympian gods. Unfazed by the viewer's gaze, she is completely occupied with herself, engrossed in a mundane, human beauty ritual. Doujak's work addresses socio-critical questions regarding standards of gender, social norms, and stereotypes. With pointed political accuracy, it also leaves room for irony and a subtle sense of humour.

The artist, who participated in documenta 12 in 2007 with her piece entitled *Siegesgarten* [Victory Garden], works mainly in the realms of photography, installation, and conceptual art. Born 1959 in Klagenfurt, Ines Doujak lives and works in Vienna.

The intervention entitled *Hera* by Ines Doujak will open the evening of 1 March 2018 in the Upper Belvedere alongside the new presentation of the collection. The second Intervention at Upper Belvedere 2018 will be created by David Zink Yi.

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