



Linda Christanell, *Self-portrait from: Wir über uns, 1978-1981*, © Idea: Linda Christanell, Photo: Margot Pilz

Vienna, 21 June 2017

**21er Haus**  
Museum for  
Contemporary Art

Quartier Belvedere  
Arsenalstraße 1  
1030 Vienna, Austria

Museum Hours  
From 1 July 2017  
Wed and Fri: 11 am – 9 pm  
Thurs, Sat, and Sun: 11 am –  
6 pm  
Open on public holidays

Press Downloads:  
[21erHaus.at/21h\\_en/press](http://21erHaus.at/21h_en/press)

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## Linda Christanell

### Picture Again

22 June to 10 September 2017

**The artist and filmmaker Linda Christanell (born 1939) has been a key figure of the feminist avant-garde in Austria since the end of the 1960s. The 21er Haus is the first museum to present a cross-section of her artistic cosmos.**

Since the early 1960s, Linda Christanell has explored female spaces, sexuality, and social attributions. Her own story and body make up the source of inspiration and thematic basis of her work. As such, her own hand emerges time and again in her works, both as subject and at the same time, as the object of the actions she stages. Characteristic of Christanell's oeuvre is found objects that symbolize femininity and sexuality. The artist repeatedly uses jewellery, feathers, shells, as well as the lettering 'sexy' and 'kiss' with which she ironically comments on society's standardised role models.

'I am very pleased to present Linda Christanell, a Viennese pioneer of feminist art, at the 21er Haus. As one of the first Austrian feminist artists, she created – by herself and collectively – a new and self-determined image of woman in a male-dominated art world' said Stella Rollig, General Director of the Belvedere and the 21er Haus.

The interdisciplinary work of the Viennese avant-garde artist spans an arc from drawing to textile objects to performance, photography, and film. Hardly any work stands by itself, as Christanell always creates cross-links between early and new works, blending them into poetic picture stories.

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After completing her studies in visual art, Linda Christanell went on to work in the fields of painting, object art, and installation. In the 1960s, she produced objects from new materials like foam and Plexiglas. The transience of these materials caused the artist to reinterpret the objects using linen. She continued to develop them into portable body-objects, which brought about her transition into performance as the next logical step in her artistic development. In 1976 Christanell and Renate Bertlmann founded the BC Kollektiv. The activities in the collective shaped her work as a performance artist and filmmaker. Her performances *Fingerfächer* (Finger Fan), *Die weiße Kugel* (The White Ball), and *Bindung* (Tie) brought her international acclaim near the end of the 1970s.

By documenting her performances, the artist arrived at photography and, finally, the medium of film, to which Christanell has increasingly devoted herself since the 1970s. The starting point for her films, composed of individual images, was always her own artistic works and her reflections upon media. Using photographic elements, trash objects, photos, and texts, Christanell created a complex, poetic, and indirectly autobiographical narrative style. The deconstruction of the traditional male gaze and the questioning of the functional mechanisms of the filmic medium are at the centre of her work. Her award-winning film work is located within the second wave of Austria's female avant-garde filmmakers. Together, the artists of this period dealt with sexuality, physicality, eroticism, and the ensuing taboos.

'This retrospective and comprehensive installation brings together examples of Linda Christanell's work from the past 50 years in a spatial interplay. Work series which have not been shown before, such as her early Plexiglas and cardboard objects, as well as recent photo series offer a good overview of the artist and avant-garde filmmaker's work', explains curator Harald Krejci.

In the past few years, Christanell's interests have been influenced by the evocative possibilities of the transfer of media, such as the redefinition and condensation of existing pictorial material. Her latest photographic works are collages of photos assembled on the floor according to formal aesthetic points of view, and then either combined with each other, with objects of kitsch, or with self-portraits.

**The press release and high-definition press photos are available for download under the following link: [http://bit.ly/21erHaus\\_LindaChristanell\\_Press](http://bit.ly/21erHaus_LindaChristanell_Press)**

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## Biography of the artist

Born 1939 in Vienna. Studied painting at Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. 1964 lived and worked in Paris, France. From 1965 to 1974, teaching positions in visual art education. Since 1965, numerous prizes, exhibitions, and film screenings at home and abroad. Founding member of the artist cooperative IntAkt (1977), member of the Austrian Filmmakers Cooperative (1982), the Künstlerhaus (1980) and the Graz Assembly of Authors GAV (1984). Jury member of the Westdeutsche Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen (1987), lecturing position at the Seminar for Film Studies at the University of Zurich (1993). Guest lecturer at universities of Vienna, Liverpool, and Dresden (2002/03). Austrian Art Prize in the video and film category (2012). Prize of the City of Vienna for Visual Arts (2015).

Selected exhibitions: Maison des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1965); Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna (1966); Forum Stadtpark, Graz (1970); solo-exhibition of foam materials and Plexiglas, Secession, Vienna (1971); Galerie 72, Eisenstadt (1972); 'Contemporary Textile Art from Austria', Washington; Frankfurt Book Fair (1974); solo- exhibition, Galerie Basilisk, Vienna; exhibition with Maina Schellander, Umweltgalerie, Stuttgart (1975).

Selected performances: performance in connection with 'Fingerfächer', Galleria comunale d'arte moderna, as part of Settimana internazionale della Performance, Bologna (1977); Performance 'Die weiße Kugel', Kunstverein Vienna, as part of the International Performance Festival; installation 'Die weiße Kugel', Galleria Tommaseo, Bologna art fair; presentation of the sound-and-slide-sequence, 'Maria durch den Dornwald ging', IntAkt-Frauengalerie, Vienna (1978); action 'I have been present', International Performance Festival, Maerz-Werkstatt, Linz; 'Her-film', Werkstatt Breitenbrunn, Burgenland; Action by IntAkt „Jungfrauentuch – Soft Art im Wind“, Grazer Stadtpark, as part of the Steirischer Herbst (1979).

Starting in the late 1970s film screenings at various international film festivals, e.g. Multimedia Festival, Bochum; International Festival of Women Artists, Danish Filmmuseum, Kopenhagen; film evening, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna; film festival „Film des femmes“, Paris. 1994/95 the 'Austrian Avant-Garde Cinema, 1955-1993' toured amongst others with films by Christanell through the most important international film museums in Europe and the United States.

Films distributed by: sixpackfilm, Mediawerkstatt Vienna, Light Cone Paris, Cinema Asta Nielsen Frankfurt, Freunde der deutschen Kinemathek Berlin.



## General Information

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| <b>Exhibition Title</b> | <i>Linda Christanell. Picture Again</i>  |
| <b>Curator</b>          | Harald Krejci  |
| <b>Duration</b>         | 22 June to 10 September 2017   |
| <b>Works</b>            | 150  |
| <b>Location</b>         | <b>21er Haus</b><br>Museum for Contemporary Art<br>Quartier Belvedere, Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna  |
| <b>Opening Hours</b>    | <b>Until 30 June 2017</b><br>Wednesday 11 am – 9 pm<br>Thursday to Sunday 11 am – 6 pm<br>Opening Hours Change<br><b>From 1 July 2017</b><br>Wednesday and Friday 11 am – 9 pm<br>Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 11 am – 6 pm<br>Open on Public Holidays |
| <b>Tickets</b>          | General Admission   7 euros<br>21er Haus Annual Ticket   21 euros<br>Reduced   5.50 euros<br>Under 18   free   |
| <b>Web</b>              | 21erhaus.at<br>facebook.com/21erHaus<br>twitter.com/21erHaus<br>instagram.com/21erHaus<br><br><b>#pictureagain21</b>   |