



Sophia Süßmilch, *Girl with a Dove (Your Actionism Won't Help Us Now, Will It?)*, 2018  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 380 cm x 220 cm  
Courtesy of the artist; all rights remain with the artist

12 July 2018

**Belvedere 21**

Arsenalstrasse 1  
1030 Vienna

Opening hours:  
Wed to Sun, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wed & Fri until 9 p.m.

Press downloads:  
[belvedere21.at/presse21](http://belvedere21.at/presse21)

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## SOPHIA SÜSSMILCH KANN ICH MAL DIE BRAUN?

As part of the retrospective *Günter Brus. Unrest after the Storm*  
Exhibition: 12 July to 12 August 2018

**With her painting action at the Belvedere 21, Sophia Süßmilch reacted to the Actionist work of Günter Brus. She had the exhibition space painted brown to thereby incorporate one of her own works on canvas. The resulting installation will remain on view until 12 August.**

Sophia Süßmilch works across genres, in and with all media. In her works, she explores body constructions and politics, the art market, and the universal in art. Her works oscillate between ironic distance and aggressive proximity, with humour serving as her most important stylistic device with which to probe the absurdity of human existence. Even as a student the young artist reacted with humorous performances to the deadly serious male art world. For a few years now, Süßmilch has also been creating paintings and drawings populated by grotesque beings and genitalia.

A room within the large Günter Brus retrospective provides space for temporary exhibitions. Following displays of works created by Günter Brus together with Arnulf Rainer, Jörg Schlick, and Dominik Steiger, Sophia Süßmilch's work is now on show at the Belvedere 21 from 11 July. Head curator Harald Krejci was inspired to invite Süßmilch on account of the numerous connections between the emerging artist and Günter Brus. 'Especially when collaborating with his wife Anna, Günter Brus repeatedly addressed gender roles and challenged stereotypes and received roles', says Harald Krejci, 'with Sophia Süßmilch,

we are bringing his work face to face with a strong female approach which similarly explores performance art with painting in a critically ironic way. Süßmilch's work is not just about femininity but also sexuality, gender issues, and the artistic exploration of these themes.'

Entitled *Kann ich mal die Braun?*, Sophia Süßmilch's work was executed in the form of a painting performance on 11 July 2018. From 4 pm to 9 pm, the collaboration room within the Günter Brus retrospective was painted brown, incorporating the painting entitled *Girl with a Dove (Your Actionism Won't Help Us Now, Will It?)* that was made especially for the exhibition. This painting by Sophia Süßmilch contains references to Viennese Actionism's main protagonists as well as to artworks of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. It was partially overpainted during the performance. The resulting installation will be on display until the end of the exhibition *Günter Brus. Unrest After the Storm*.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Born in Dachau, Germany, in 1983.

Lives and works in Vienna and Munich.

2018	Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis
2/2015	Graduated from Professor Stephan Huber's masterclass, AdBK Munich
4/2012 – 2/2013	Scholarship holder at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design under Professor Isaac Julien
10/2011 – 09/2012	Professor Ashley Hans Scheirl's contextual painting class, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
4/2011 – 11/2011	Research fellowship in the USA
2008	Accepted to the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung scholarship programme
2006–2015	Stephan Huber's free art and sculpture class, AdBK Munich
2005/2006	Degree in physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich
2005	<i>Abitur</i> , Käthe- Kollwitz-Gymnasium, Munich
2018	<i>Die ersten Jahre der Professionalität 37</i> , Galerie der Künstler, Munich <i>Post-Feminism</i> , Galerie Størpunkt, Munich
2017	<i>Unser Dorf soll schöner werden</i> , Traube, St. Ulrich, South Tyrol <i>Schleiß auf Metaphern</i> , Ateliertheater, Vienna
2016	<i>Schlechte Entscheidungen</i> , Kunstarkaden, Munich
2014	<i>ICH</i> , Galerie Fetti Amore, Leipzig <i>ZIMMER FREI</i> , Hotel Mariandl, Munich
2013	<i>30 Jahre Lebenslüge</i> , Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna <i>FIRST WE TAKE MANHATTAN</i> , Rathausgalerie, Munich
2012	<i>VIENNA SAUSAGE</i> , Galerie AaCollections, Vienna <i>VACANCY/NO VACANCY</i> , Akademiegalerie Munich, Blum & Süßmilch, Munich
2011	<i>STARTERS</i> , Lothringer 13/Halle, Munich <i>BURGERS SIMULTANHALLE</i> , Simultanhalle, Cologne
2010	<i>FLUXUS 3000. THE FUTURE OF PERFORMANCE ART</i> , Lothringer 13/Laden, Munich
2009	<i>Wunderkammer – die Ratten stürmen das sinkende Schiff</i> , Die Färberei, Munich

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Performance/Installation As part of the exhibition	<i>Sophia Süßmilch. Kann ich mal die Braun?</i> <i>Günter Brus. Unrest after the Storm</i>
Curator	Harald Krejci
Duration	until 12 August 2018
Venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstrasse 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Long opening: Wednesday and Friday until 9 p.m. (also valid on public holidays)
Tickets	Regular   8 euros Belvedere 21 Annual Ticket   21 euros Reduced   6 euros Children and teenagers under 18   free
Web	<a href="http://belvedere21.at">belvedere21.at</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/belvedere21">facebook.com/belvedere21</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/belvedere21wien">twitter.com/ belvedere21wien</a> <a href="https://instagram.com/belvedere21wien">instagram.com/belvedere21wien</a>  <b>From 23 to 29 July Sophia Süßmilch will be designing the Belvedere 21's Facebook page, and from 2 to 11 July she was in charge of our Instagram account!</b>  #GunterBrus21

The press release along with high-resolution press photographs are available for download at [belvedere21.at/presse21](http://belvedere21.at/presse21).