

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

BRENNA QUINN - HEIMWEG

Opening reception: 10th October 2024, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 10th October - 2nd November 2024

Drawing inspiration from Austrian writer Ingeborg Bachmann's poem of the same name, "Heimweg (The Way Home)" delves into the complex relationship between body, memory, and mortality. Quinn's multidisciplinary approach invites viewers to reconsider the ceremonial aspects of daily life and the symbolic weight carried by ordinary objects in our lives.

The exhibition combines a single-channel video installation, a site-specific sculptural installation, and work on paper. The video installation debuts grainy Hi8 camcorder footage from Quinn's residency at MQ21 in Vienna, accompanied by the sound of a violinist learning to play a Bach violin concerto. Although never visible, the protagonist interacts with a cast of characters, including the landscape of Vienna, an electric tea kettle, and the view from their bedroom window. The sculptural installation features mirrored-top tables sourced in Berlin, arranged with forty-four found snail objects—from crystal to carved wood—collected by the artist via online resale sites over the past year and a half and referencing her current age. The two-dimensional text-based work will present a hand-transcribed excerpt from Bachmann's poem, which the artist will create on-site during her time in Berlin, adding a performative and immediate dimension to the exhibition. While visually absent of the "main character's" human figure, these works aim to provoke reflection on our physical bodies' temporality, the comfort and constraint of daily routine, the psychology of collecting and preservation, and the grounding power of poetry in understanding our lived experiences.

Quinn sees this pivotal body of work as a continuation of her exploration of feminist discourse and her personal narrative as a survivor with invisible disabilities. With obsessive repetition and traces of gesture, her art often confronts the transient nature of life, capitalist consumption, and the representation of women in media, inviting the audience to intimate with her personal journey.

"For me, memory and the concept of 'home' are in constant flux, shaped by who I think I am or try to be each day," says Quinn. "In 'Heimweg,' I'm not aiming for viewers to replicate my memories, but rather to engage with objects and spaces significant to me - from Vienna's landscape to my temporary residence there, and the snail objects I've obsessively been collecting. What began as a self-portrait metaphor has evolved into a symbol for being at home in one's body, representing adaptation, patience, and simplicity. The first layer of this exhibition invites viewers to explore how we carry 'home' within us, constantly reshaping it through our experiences."

About the Artist

B. Quinn (she/her), born in 1979 in Pittsburgh, PA, US, is a conceptual artist whose work spans drawing, sculpture, text, and video. A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Quinn has exhibited internationally, including with Critical Art Ensemble at dOCUMENTA(13). In 2021, she was honoured as a Fulbright Independent Scholar and artist-in-residence at MQ21 in Vienna, AT. Quinn's solo exhibitions have taken place in Chicago, Columbus, New York, and Pittsburgh. Continuing her dialogue with the work of author Ingeborg Bachmann, her recent painting *Ablaze, as I am*, is featured in the *Power Frauen* exhibition at DANK Haus German American Cultural Center and Museum in Chicago, IL, US. Quinn's latest project, *Heimweg (The Way Home)*, marks her first solo exhibition in Berlin, DE, further expanding her international presence.

Acknowledgments

An Individual Artist Project Grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural and Special Events (DCASE) has generously supported this exhibition, enabling the realisation of Quinn's vision and the presentation of her work to a broader audience. Additionally, this project was supported, in part, by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant.

Hošek Contemporary

Established by Petr Hošek in 2016, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific pieces, performing arts and experimental sound works. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international musicians.

MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was initially operating under the name *Ida* and used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed *Heimatland*, meaning "homeland". Until the 90s, the ship was sailing on Elbe and Havel, moving other boats, sand and chipping. It served for artistic and cultural purposes for the first time in 2002, when German sculptor Christiane Möbus chose it for her *Nackte Tatsache Tatsache* project. Finally, in March 2018, *Heimatland* became the main exhibition space and artist residency of Hošek Contemporary. The boat is permanently anchored in the historic port of Berlin.

PETR HOŠEK

MOTOR SHIP HEIMATLAND

ANCHORED NEAR FISCHERINSEL PARK

10 179 BERLIN

+49 1525 7486496

INFO@HOSEKCONTEMPORARY.COM

WWW.HOSEKCONTEMPORARY.COM