HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

- EST. 2016 -

PAULA CHAMBERS - INCONVENIENT BODIES

Opening reception: 6th April 2023, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 5th - 8th April 2023

The installation 'Inconvenient Bodies' brings attention to those with bodies that have become socially inconvenient, not just the old, the ill, or the infirm, but also those whose bodies do not comfortably fit the men/women categories as displayed on the signs outside public toilets. There are also those whose bodily functions are deemed shameful, the fear of 'bleeding through' when menstruation is particularly heavy, the countless homeless who need access to public facilities in which to wash, sex workers, migrants, the list goes on. The installation 'Inconvenient Bodies' develops ideas and material processes worked with previously. Three chiffon panels printed with images of women's public toilets in very poor condition are supported on a line of pink satin rope by six wooden washing line props, sanded and waxed to a high finish, like modernist designer furniture. A hoard of small copper coated plywood cutouts of 'ladies' also inhabit the gallery space, these little objects could be easily overlooked, like those with bodies deemed inconvenient by society and culture.

About the artist

Paula Chambers is an artist, academic and arts educator living and working in Yorkshire in the UK. She has exhibited widely including most recently the solo exhibitions Working Girls at The Whitaker, Lancashire and Not at Home at the Art House, Wakefield. Paula is Subject Leader for Sculpture on BA (Hons) Fine Art at Leeds Arts University. She has presented at national and international conferences on feminism, contemporary art and the domestic, has chapters included in Feminist Art Activisms and Artivisms, Feminist Visual Activism and the Body, and in An Artist and a Mother. Also journal articles published in the journal of Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society, and in Performance/Research Journal (special issue On The Maternal).

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.

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