

PRESS RELEASE

Lübeck, June 6, 2019

First solo exhibition in Germany:

Doris Salcedo – Tabula Rasa

07/09-03/11/2019

Award ceremony & exhibition opening on September 7, 2019

Caption: Colombian artist, Doris Salcedo, receives the first Possehl Prize for International Art in Lübeck in 2019.

Internationally renowned artist, Doris Salcedo (b. 1958), explores the effects of violence and marginalization in her home country of Colombia and other regions of the world through objects, sculptures and large, static installations. Following exhibitions at the Tate Modern (London, 2007) and Guggenheim Museum (New York, 2015), St. Annen Art Gallery, in Lübeck will be showing her first solo exhibition in Germany from September 7 to November 3.

The international jury (Stephan Berg, Director, Bonn Museum of Modern Art , Hannah Firth, Director, Chapter Cardiff, Anette Hüsck, Director Kunsthalle Kiel, Oliver Zybok, Director Overbeck Society, Lübeck) for the Possehl Prize for International Art being awarded for the first time, emphasizes that Doris Salcedo finds poetic images of political power systems, racism and systematic inequalities, and that her work is "of the highest relevance to our contemporary times". The award ceremony will take place on the September 7, with the prize being endowed with 25,000 Euros.

Art lest we forget

Salcedo's work begins where others turn away: with great sensitivity in her sculptures and installations, she addresses the tragic repercussions of violence as a consequence of political and economic claims to power, thereby guiding the viewer to the emotional level of the victims and their relatives. The civil war-like conflict, which has been going on for five decades in her native Colombia, is the starting point for many of Salcedo's projects. Her artworks are anti-monuments, testimonies of torture, loss and trauma. Here, the artist creates poetic installations and expansive works that, in their fragility and vulnerability, lend a tangible presence to those who survived or fell victim to the brutality and injustice. For example, at the 8th Biennale in Istanbul (2003), she piled 1,500 chairs in a narrow gap between two houses in a neighborhood once inhabited by members of the Greek and Jewish minorities. In 2007, she took a closer look at Europe's dealings with migrants in 'Shibboleth' in the Tate Modern and questioned the closed-door and marginalization mechanisms of the so-called "first world" with a long and deep crack in the concrete floor of the turbine hall.



Kunsthalle St. Annen
St. Annen-Straße 15
23552 Lübeck

Director: Antje-Britt Mählmann

Opening times: Tues-Sun | 10 am-5 pm
www.kunsthalle-st-annen.de
#dorissalcedo

Exhibition Curator:
Oliver Zybok, Director Overbeck-Gesellschaft Lübeck

Press conference:
Thursday, 05/09/2019, 11.00 pm

Award ceremony for Doris Salcedo and exhibition opening:
Saturday, 07/09/2019, 7 pm

MEDIA RELATIONS
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The artist lives in Bogotá, where she most recently created an 'anti-monument' from some of the 7,000 weapons cast by the FARC rebels. Melted down and processed in collaboration with female victims of violence, these are used as floorboards in a new museum in the center of the city, and serve as a place of reflection on the long years of violent conflict in Colombia.



Exhibition 'Tabula Rasa'

In her current series, 'Tabula Rasa I-IV', Salcedo artistically explores the rape suffered by many women during the Colombian civil war and the ongoing reign of tyranny. To create this installation, she destroyed tables, symbols of life and living, and reassembled them with glue in a work process made up of many tiny pieces. The restored objects show clear traces of their destruction. The impossibility of reversing an act of violence once committed is inscribed in everyday objects in a material and metaphorical way. The meaningful title of this series of works is also the title of the exhibition.

Works, such as 'A Flor de Piel' (2011-2012), a large cloth made of preserved rose petals sewn together in a filigree way, and 'Plegaria Muda' (2008-2010), wooden tables, superimposed onto one another, from which fine blades of grass grow, call strength, beauty and fragility of life into mind and, at the same time, recall the sad fates of individual people.

Some of the objects made from raw silk and embroidery needles from the work group 'Disremembered' (2014-2015) will also be on display in the exhibition. The pain that is felt due to the absence of people forms a central theme here as well: interviews with mothers from Chicago who lost their children to armed violence formed the starting point of the work here.

In artistic terms, Doris Salcedo not only works extremely extensively and precisely, but also in terms of how she practically implements her projects, thus, for instance, binding the victims of violence into the creation of her works, and so giving them a voice at the same time.

Lübeck as a center of contemporary art

Following Jonathan Meese's exhibition, 'Dr. Zuhause: K.U.N.S.T. (Erzliebe) - Mutter / Evolution', St. Annen Art Gallery will, for the second time, present a retrospective overview of a contemporary position, thus adding strength to Lübeck as a center for exploring modern art and the aesthetic and social issues of our times.

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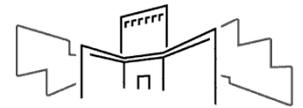
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Information about the Possehl Prize for International Art

With the Prize for International Art, the Lübeck Possehl Foundation honors living artists of national and international renown for their life's work or an outstanding work or group of works. The prize will be awarded every three years from 2019. For the assessment, an extraordinary artistic discussion and an ongoing, continuous performance spanning at least over a decade are paramount and deserve special recognition. The prize is awarded in a nomination process in the categories Sculpture, Installation, New Media and Performance, and Forms of Artistic Actionism. Intermedial references of various forms of artistic expression in complete works are recognized at an award ceremony. The award is endowed with prize money of 25,000 Euros and the organization of an exhibition at St. Annen Art Gallery, Lübeck.

For more information:

www.possehl-stiftung.de/stiftung/preise/kunstpreis.html



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