

Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts

Retrospective celebrates world premiere of the US-American artist's three most recent works

17 March – 26 August 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

The most comprehensive retrospective of Bruce Nauman's oeuvre to date is on view at Schaulager until August 26. Born in 1941 and based in New Mexico, Nauman is widely acknowledged as one of the most pioneering artists of our time. The exhibition brings together rarely exhibited pieces alongside renowned key works and includes the world premiere of the artist's two most recent works. Additional installations by Nauman from the collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation are presented at Kunstmuseum Basel. The exhibition "Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts" is organized in collaboration with The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

As the first comprehensive retrospective of Bruce Nauman's practice in 25 years, the exhibition spans some five decades of this exceptional artist's career. It draws on the important holdings of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation and the Museum of Modern Art. These bodies of work will be complemented by works loaned from over 70 renowned institutions and private collections from all over the world.

The exhibition comprises over 170 works, representing all phases of Nauman's work from the mid-1960s to the present day. From several different angles, the exhibition reveals the artist's unique mastery of a steadily expanding spectrum of media ranging from video, drawings, prints and photographs to sculptures, neon works, sound pieces and installations that quite literally draw viewers in. Rarely seen works will be showcased alongside familiar key works.

Two world premieres and a european premiere

The exhibition features the world premiere of *Contrapposto Split* (2017), a fascinating 3-D video piece that challenges perception and undermines visual assumptions. Nauman takes an approach already developed in 1968 for the black-and-white video *Walk with Contrapposto*, thus returning to the leitmotifs that run through his entire oeuvre: his studio, his body, and the nature of perception. Schaulager is happy to present another

premiere, the new sculpture *Leaping Foxes* (2018), a pyramid of animal bodies used in taxidermy, suspended upside down from the ceiling. In addition, the monumental seven-part video projection *Contrapposto Studies, i through vii* (2015/2016) is on view in Europe for the first time.

As a curatorial leitmotif, "Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts" traces the recurring motifs of disappearance and strategies of withdrawal in Nauman's work. The exhibition's curator Kathy Halbreich, Laurenz Foundation Curator and Advisor to the Director, the Museum of Modern Art, explains: "Close relatives of disappearance – the absent, the void, and ensuing senses of nonexistence, privation, or omission – also appear in many forms."

Other works at Kunstmuseum Basel

For the run of the exhibition, two important installations by Nauman from the collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann foundation will be on view at Kunstmuseum Basel. The admission fee includes a one-time visit to the Kunstmuseum as well as three visits to Schaulager. Having recognized Bruce Nauman's artistic potential in the early 1970s, Kunstmuseum Basel and the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation began to acquire films, sculptures, and drawings by the artist. For over 45 years, Nauman has been a focal point in both collections so that, in the course of time, one of the world's most important bodies of work by the American artist has been assembled in Basel. *Leaping Foxes* and *Contrapposto Studies, i through vii* both just recently acquired by the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation (the latter jointly acquired with MoMA), are impressive testimonials to the continuing relevance of Nauman's work.

Organized by Laurenz Foundation, Schaulager Basel and The Museum of Modern Art, New York

The exhibition is curated by Kathy Halbreich, Laurenz Foundation Curator and Advisor to the Director, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; with Heidi Naef, Chief Curator, and Isabel Friedli, Curator, Schaulager Basel; and Magnus Schaefer, Assistant Curator, and Taylor Walsh, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Drawings and Prints, The Museum of Modern Art.

The exhibition will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1 beginning October 21, 2018.

Accompanying catalogue

An extensive catalogue, *Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts*, has been published in German and English (CHF 75.00). In addition a scholarly reader, *Bruce Nauman: A Contemporary*, examines Nauman's contemporaneity and relates his work to the art production and art theoretical discourse of recent decades. In German and English (CHF 28.00).

PUBLICATIONS

ART BASEL

Special hours during Art Basel

11–17 June 2018: Monday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.,
Wednesday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Live Performances

A live reenactment of Nauman's performance *Wall-Floor Positions* of 1965 will be presented at Schaulager several times daily during Art Basel.

DETAILS

Special events

Conversations, Lectures, Films

INFORMATION

Admission

Tickets valid for three visits to Schaulager included one entrance to the Kunstmuseum Basel Collection (not transferable):
regular CHF 22, reduced CHF 15

Taxi-Bike shuttle

The shuttle between Schaulager and Art Basel is available during Art Basel, from 11–17 June (no service on Wednesday, 13 June). Enjoy a relaxing ride through the city! The shuttles stop at Kunstmuseum Basel on request.

During Art Basel, our press desk in the lobby of Schaulager is open for questions and information.

PRESS RELEASE AND HIGH-RES IMAGES

Contact

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