

Katharina Fritsch

After having studied history and art history at the University of Münster, Katharina Fritsch, born 1956 in Essen (Germany), studied from 1977 in the class of Fritz Schwegler at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf until 1984. Since the mid-1980s, she has exhibited regularly both at home and abroad: at the Kunsthalle Basel, for instance, in 1988; her first US solo exhibition took place at Dia Art Foundation in New York in 1993. Fritsch represented Germany at the 46th Venice Biennale in 1995, followed by an important solo exhibition in 1996 at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, which went on to the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel in 1997. Retrospectives were held in 2001 at Tate Modern in London, in 2002 at the K21 in Düsseldorf, and in 2009 at the Kunsthaus Zürich, and subsequently exhibited at Deichtorhallen in Hamburg. In 2013 her contribution *Hahn /Cock* to the Fourth Plinth in London's Trafalgar Square caused a sensation.

Katharina Fritsch taught as Professor of Sculpture at the Kunstakademie Münster from 2001 to 2010, and since 2010 she has held a professorship at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, the town where she lives.

Alexej Koschkarow

After having studied for two years at the Academy of Fine Arts in Minsk, Alexej Koschkarow, born 1972 in Minsk (Belarus), went to Germany to study with Fritz Schwegler at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf from 1993 to 1999. In his final year, he was invited by Katharina Fritsch for a collaborative exhibition entitled "Damenwahl" at the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf. The following year, Koschkarow invited about thirty friends to the Malkasten art space in Düsseldorf: *Tortenschlacht* (2001) is the video documentation of this event, during which the elegantly dressed guests started to throw cream pies provided for this purpose. More solo- and group exhibitions followed, among others in 2001 at Haus Fürstenberg, Sammlung Ackermans at Xanten, at the Galerie Jablonka Lühn in Cologne in 2002, 2003 and 2005, and "Situation Comedy: Humor in Recent Art" at the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu, also in 2005. His works were part of the 10th Triennale der Kleinplastik in Fellbach in 2007, and in 2008 "Take Me There (Show Me The Way)" at the Haunch of Venison in New York. In 2009, Viafarini in Milan presented "Checkpoint Charly". Alexej Koschkarow lives and works in New York.