

Paloma Varga Weisz

Biography

Paloma Varga Weisz (b. 1966, Mannheim, Germany) lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany. Her practice employs sculpture, watercolor and drawing to explore subjects such as memory, mortality, metamorphosis, myths and folklore.

The artist creates her own iconography by combining references to psychoanalysis with elements of Italian and German Renaissance and Gothic art. Her works lead the viewer into a contemplative observation, poised between dream and reality, characterized both by playful surrealism and emotional naiveté. Woodcarving has formed a central aspect of Paloma Varga Weisz's work since the beginning of her career.

She trained as a woodcarver in Bavaria from 1987-2000, and has continued to utilize and develop this technique, sourcing inspiration from its rich iconographic history. She also attended the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in the 1990s. Varga Weisz's hybrid archetypal creatures evoke fairy tales and grotesque scenery displaying her personal subconscious symbolism and collective motifs.

Major solo exhibitions include Skulpturenhalle, Thomas Schütte Foundation, Holzheim, Germany; Kabinettstück, Fürstenberg Zeitgenössisch, Donaueschingen, Germany; curated by Moritz Wesseler; Glory Hole, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria; Root of a Dream, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Krummer Hund, Kabinett für aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, Germany, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (with Rosemary Trockel) and Spirits of My Flesh, Chapter, Cardiff, United Kingdom among other. Selected group shows include Lucas Cranach the Elder, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany; The Human Factor, Hayward Gallery, London; Sculptures from the Art Academy Düsseldorf since 1945, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany, Exquisite Corpses: Drawing and Disfiguration, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Solo exhibitions

2024

2024 - Forthcoming, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2023

2023 - Glass, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2023 - Wilde Leute, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Berlin, D

2021

2021 - Glory Hole, Le Consortium, Dijon, F

2020

2020 - Bumped Body, The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK

2019

2019 - Bumped Body, Bonnefontenmuseum, Maastricht, NL

2019 - Wundergestalt, Gladstone 64, New York, USA

2018

2018 - Wild Bunch, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2017

2017 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Galeria Pedro Cera, Lisbon, P

2017 - Skulpturenhalle, Thomas Schütte Foundation, Neuss/Holzheim, D

2016

2016 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Gerhardsen Gerner, Oslo, N

2016 - Kabinettstück, curated by Moritz Wessler, Fürstenberg Zeitgenössisch, Donaueschingen, D

2015

2015 - Root of a Dream, curated by Marianna Vecellio, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, I

2014

2014 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2013

2013 - Krummer Hund, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, IRL

2013 - Krummer Hund, Kabinett für aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, D

2013 - Unfired, curated by Moritz Wessler, CAPRI, Düsseldorf, D

2012

2012 - Maison de Plaisance (with Rosemarie Trockel), curated by Stefanie Kreuzer, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, D

2012 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2011

2011 - Spirits of My Flesh, Chapter, Cardiff, UK

2009

2009 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, IL

2008

2008 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Gladstone Gallery, New York, USA

2008 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Berlin, D

2008 - Bumped Body, curated by Gerald Matt and Angela Stief, Kunsthalle Wien project space, Karlsplatz, Vienna, A

2007

2007 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Sadie Cole HQ, London, UK

2006

2006 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, IRL

2005

2005 - Chor, Gladstone Gallery, New York, USA

2005 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2004

2004 - Paloma Varga Weisz, curated by Guide de Werd, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, D

2003

2003 - Stubaifrau, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, D

2002

2002 - Big Trip, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, D

2002 - Waldfrau, Castello di Rivara, Turin, I

2002 - Paloma Varga Weisz, curated by Martin Janda, Kunstraum Galerie der Stadt Schwaz, Tirol, I

2001

2001 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Kabinett für aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, D

2001 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Kunstverein Bremerhaven, Bremerhaven, D

2000

2000 - Paloma Cabaret (in cooperation with Alexander Jasch), Adeline Morlon Art Direction, Düsseldorf, D

2000 - Demut, Galerie Vera Munro, Hamburg, D

1999

1999 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Collection Ackermans, Xanten, D

1998

1998 - Wilde Leute, Galerie Bochynek, Düsseldorf, D

Group exhibitions

2022

2022 - Winter Wunderkammer, MASSIMODECARLO, VSpace, I

2022 - Balancing Act, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I

2022 - Pupille. Ci fioriscono gli occhi se ci guardiamo, curated by Rita Selvaggio, Casa Masaccio Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, San Giovanni Valdarno, I

2022 - Afterimage, curated by Bartolomeo Pietromarchi, Alessandro Rabottini, MAXXI, L'Aquila, I

2022 - 25 Jahre Kurhaus Kleve, Museum Kurhaus / Kleve, Kleve, D

2022 - Glassstress 2022 – STATE OF MIND, Fondazione Berengo Art Space, Venice, I

2022 - The searchers, HDTS 2022, Joshua Tree, USA

2022 - Repeater, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

2022 - Konterfei, Orangerie Schloss Benrath, Düsseldorf-Benrath, D

2021

2021 - Trees die stand: Plants and humans, curated by Freda Uziyel, Pi Artworks, London, UK

2021 - Cracked, Tristan Hoare, London, UK

2021 - SKOGSPROMENAD, CFHILL, Stockholm, S

2021 - Fourth plinth shortlist exhibition, The National Gallery, London, UK

2021 - Les fleurs du mal, Parotta Contemporary Art, Cologne and Bonn, USA

2020

2020 - Group Show, MOUNT KAPLAN, Berlin, D

2020 - -a breath? a name? - the ways of worldmaking, Biennale Gherdëina 7, Dolomiten, Jubel Jubel, - Es rolle der Rubel, Tiefkeller, Bonn, D

2020 - The effects of crossings and self-aggrandization in the human kingdom, Mario Mauroner Gallery, Vienna, A

2019

2019 - Multiface, Georg Hornemann studio, Berlin, D
2019 - Homo Faber: Craft in Contemporary Sculpture, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, ROK
2019 - Mask: In Present Day Art, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, CH
2019 - Animaesque / Art Across Species and Beings, Bildmuseet, Umea, S
2019 - The Enigma of the Hour - 100 Years of Psychoanalytic Thought, Freud Museum, London, UK
2019 - The Palace at 4 a.m, NEON Foundation, Archeological Museum, Mykonos, GR
2019 - A cool Breeze, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, CZ
2019 - The American Scene, National Museum of Ceramics, Sevres, F

2018

2018 - Al Dio Ortopedico, Galleria Gentili, Florence, I
2018 - Material Wood – Art & Design, Messums, Wiltshire, UK
2018 - Death is Irrelevant: Selections from the Marc and Livia Straus Collection, 1975-2018, Hudson Valley MOCA, Upstate New York, USA
2018 - Topologies, curated by Mika Yoshitake, THE WAREHOUSE, Dallas, USA
2018 - Von fremden Ländern in eigenen Städten, Düsseldorf central station, MAP Markus Ambach Projekte, Düsseldorf, D
2018 - [IM]MATERIELL.Über das Geistige im Stofflichen, Galerie Altes Feuerhaus, Städtische Galerie Bad Reichenhall, Bad Reichenhall, D
2018 - Nudes, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK
2018 - ISelf Collection Bumped Bodies, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
2018 - The Beautiful Escape, CFHILL, Stockholm, S
2018 - A MIND OF WINTER, Fundaziun de Planta Samedan, Samedan, CH
2018 - Black White, Städtische Galerie im Park Viersen, Viersen, D

2017

2017 - At Sea. Works from the Kunsthalle Bremerhaven Collection, Städtische Galerie Delmenhorst, Delmenhorst, D
2017 - Dreamers Awake, curated by Susanna Greeves, White Cube, London, UK
2017 - EDITION 12-21, me Collectors Room Stiftung Olbricht, Berlin, D
2017 - Luther and the Avantgarde, Old Prison, Wittenberg, D
2017 - Lucas Cranach the Elder, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, D
2017 - Physical Mind Restless Hand, Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin, D

2016

2016 - No Man's Land: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
2016 - Revolt of the Sage, Blain Southern, London, UK
2016 - Behind the curtain. Concealment and Revelation since the Renaissance, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, D
2016 - Cloud and Crystal – Jackson Pollock meets Bruce Nauman, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, D
2016 - The Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2016 - With a touch of pink, with a bit of violet, with a hint of green – Dorothee Fischer in memoriam, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, D
2016 - Sulta Croce – Giubileo 2016, Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati, Lugano, CH
2016 - QUEENSIZE - Female Artists from the Olbricht Collection, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, NL
2016 - Ceramix. Ceramic art from Gauguin to Schütte, La Maisen Rouge Paris, Paris; Cité de la céramique, Sèvres, F
2016 - -1 moulage collection of the Berlin Medical Historical Museum at the Charité, tiefkeller, Bonn, D

2015

2015 - No Man's Land: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA. Catalogue
2015 - Mother of the Year. Between Empowerment and Crisis: Images of Motherhood from 1900 to

Today, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz, A
2015 - Ceramix. Ceramic art from Gauguin to Schütte, Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht, Maastricht, NL
2015 - The Problem of God, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, D
2015 - The Marked Self: Between Annihilation and Masquerade, BRUSEUM, Neue Galerie Graz, Graz, A
2015 - Plaster: casts & copies, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK
2015 - Du sollst Dir (k)ein Bild machen, Tauf – und Traukirche des Berliner Doms, Berlin, D

2014

2014 - QUEENSIZE – Female Artists from the Olbricht Collection, me Collectors Room Stiftung Olbricht, Berlin, D
2014 - Basic Research – Notes on the Collection, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, D
2014 - The Human Factor, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
2014 - 1984?, Mai 36 Galerie, Zürich, D

2013

2013 - Die Bildhauer. Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, 1945 bis heute, Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf, D
2013 - Adventures of truth - Painting and philosophy, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul, F

2012

2012 - Exquisite Corpses: Drawing and Disfiguration, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
2012 - Kabinettstücke, Weserburg, Museum für moderne Kunst, Bremen, D
2012 - Prima Materia, Gladstone Gallery, Brussels, B

2011

2011 - Memories of the Future: The Olbricht Collection, La Maison Rouge, Fondation Antoine de Galbert, Paris, F
2011 - Neupräsentation und Leihgaben, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten, Marl Folkstone Triennial, Folkstone, UK

2010

2010 - Neues Rheinland, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, D
2010 - Multiple Pleasures: Functional Objects in Contemporary Art, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA
2010 - Intensif-Station, Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf, D
2010 - Contemporary Eye: Crossovers, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK
2010 - Roll-On/Roll-Off, Kunsthalle Bremerhaven, Bremerhaven, D
2010 - Lebenslust und Totentanz, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, A
2010 - Larger than life - stranger than fiction, 11. Triennale Kleinplastik, Fellbach, D
2010 - Aber Schwarz ist doch gar keine Farbe!, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, D
2010 - Silent Revolution - Sammlungspräsentation, Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf, D

2009

2009 - cargo, Autocenter, Berlin / Bayrische Staatsoper München, München, D

2008

2008 - Vom Gehen in viele Richtungen, KIT Kunst im Tunnel, Düsseldorf, D
2008 - Der Symbolismus und die Kunst der Gegenwart, Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal, D
2008 - The Krautcho Club / In and Out of Place, 176 Gallery, London, UK
2008 - Forgotten Bar Project, Galerie im Regierungsviertel, Berlin, D
2008 - „Go for it! Olbricht Collection (a sequel)“, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, D

2007

2007 - Effigies, Stuart Shave Modern Art, London, UK
2007 - Makers and Modelers, Gladstone Gallery, New York, USA
2007 - Die Kunst zu sammeln, museum kunst palast, Düsseldorf, D
2007 - Revue - Zehn Jahre Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, D
2007 - re-dis-play, Kunstverein Heidelberg, Heidelberg, D

2006

- 2006 - Of Mice and Men, 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art, Berlin, D. Catalogue
- 2006 - Unikate 0/6 - 12 Statements aus Rheinland-Pfalz, Kunstverein Germersheim, Germersheim, D
- 2006 - Kunst-Körperlich, Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche, Osnabrück, D
- 2006 - Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Art, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL
- 2006 - The Wonderful Fund, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK
- 2006 - Zoo Story, Fischer Landau Center for the Arts, Long Island City (NY), USA

2005

- 2005 - Always a Little Further, La 51. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte della Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, I
- 2005 - Blickachsen, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, D
- 2005 - Sammlung 2005, Neupräsentation Kunstsammlung im K21, Düsseldorf, D
- 2005 - The Wonderful Fund Collection, Musée de Marrakech, Marrakech, MA
- 2005 - The Addiction, Gagosian Gallery, Berlin, D

2004

- 2004 - 9. Triennale der Kleinplastik, Triennale Kleinplastik Fellbach, Fellbach, D
- 2004 - European Triennial of Small-Scale Sculpture. Renaissance of The Statuette, Galerija Murska Sobota, Kocljeva, SLO
- 2004 - Kunst- und Foerderpreis Rheinland-Pfalz 2004 für Bildhauerei, Schloss Waldthausen, Budenheim, D
- 2004 - All Creatures Great and Small, Comme ci Comme ca II, Salon d'Art, Köln, D
- 2004 - Woodwork, Anthony Grant, New York, USA
- 2004 - Sammlung Plum, Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, D
- 2004 - My Father's Eyes, Galerie Andreas Brüning, Düsseldorf, D
- 2004 - Reflections, Artuatuca Kunsterfoed Festival, Tongeren, B
- 2004 - actionbutton, Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, RUS
- 2004 - raumfürraum, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen und Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, D

2003

- 2003 - Falling Angels, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 - Not Afraid, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA
- 2003 - actionbutton, Ankäufe der Bundesrepublik, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, D
- 2003 - Poeme-Image, Schloss Wendlinghausen, Dörentrup, D

2002

- 2002 - Paloma Varga Weisz, Cecilia Edefalk and Michael Bach, Landesvertretung Bremen, Berlin, D
- 2002 - The Galleries Show, Essor Gallery, Royal Academy, London, UK
- 2002 - Cabinet with Outfit, Galerie Andreas Brüning, Düsseldorf, D
- 2002 - on paper, Grimm / Rosenfeld, München, D

2001

- 2001 - Group Show, Städtische Galerie am Bunten Tor, Bremen, D

2000

- 2000 - Aroma, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf, D
- 2000 - Group Show, Galerie Andreas Grimm, Palma de Mallorca, E

1998

- 1998 - Moving images without tears, Galerie Vera Munro, Hamburg, D

1996

- 1996 - Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Nordrhein-Westfalen, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, S

- *Animalesque / Art Across Species and Beings*, BALTIC Center for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK
- *The Distance of a Day – New in Contemporary Art*, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL