

WOMEN ON WOMEN

An Exhibition in Honor of the International Women's Day in Berlin

With works by Elvira Bach, Xenia Hausner, Seet van Hout, Lies Maculan, Deborah Sengl, Yukiko Terada and Patricia Waller

7 March - 13 April, 2019

Opening: Thursday, den 7 March, 2019

Opening remarks by **Christiane Stuetzle Scharf**, Lawyer, Certified Specialist for Copyright and Media Law

With video-recorded opening remarks by **Claudia Roth**, Member and Vice President of the German Bundestag

Starting with this year's 8 March Berlin, as the only German state, is honoring the International Women's Day as a public holiday. On this occasion the Galerie Deschler is presenting an exhibition of works by its female artists on the topic of women: Women About Women.

In its history spanning more than 100 years this day reflects the countless historical upheavals of the 20th century. First proposed at a conference of socialist women in 1910, the Women's Day was first proclaimed a year later, only to be banned by the Nazis and reintroduced in the GDR as a socialist public holiday. In 1977 the UN declared March 8th to be the "UN Day for women's rights and world peace." Originally linked to the women's suffrage movement it became an important date for activists fighting for the emancipation of women in all areas.

Feminism itself has developed, changed and diversified significantly since the 1960s and 70s. It is therefore not surprising that the approaches of the participating international female artists on the topic "women" should be very individual and unique. The works by the younger generation are marked e.g. by the lyrical encodings of **Yukiko Terada** (Japan), ironically fractured, critical allegories in the case of **Deborah Sengl** (Austria), and the visual paradoxes of **Lies Maculan** (Austria). Juxtaposed with these are the more painterly works of two established artists, reflections of the specifically female gaze on women in the works of **Xenia Hausner** (Austria), and the heroic staging of her own persona in the paintings of **Elvira Bach** (Germany). The crocheted sculptures of **Patricia Waller** (Germany), with their biting black humor, are in a category all by themselves. The works of **Seet van Hout** (The Netherlands) literally break out of the frame with their delicate aesthetics and open forms. Together these artists create a panopticon casting spotlights on the complex and perpetually shifting cultural perception of women, their role in society and their conceptual positioning in the contemporary world, as well as on the associated ideological turf wars.