



CHIMERA

Passengers of a Kaleidoscopic Journey – Teil 2

Group exhibition
Curator Semra Sevin
Kunstquartier Bethanien

Vernissage October 03, 2019 7pm

Projektraum Kunstquartier Bethanien
Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin
Opening Hours 12 – 20h

<http://kunstquartier-bethanien.de>

<https://www.instagram.com/kaleidoscopic.journey/>

Semra Sevin, "Selfbodyportrait", 80x80cm, collage, 2019

**"NO PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED FROM THE SAME LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS
THAT CREATED IT" - Albert Einstein -**

From October 3rd to October 12th 2019, the internationally working German artist SEMRA SEVIN presents her group exhibition CHIMERA at the Projektraum Kunstquartier Bethanien.

CHIMERA is the concept for an investigative interdisciplinary group exhibition consisting of works of art by German and international contemporary artists living in Berlin. The exhibition focuses on the uniquely diverse, cosmopolitan and cosmopolitan art scene that emerged in Berlin after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The group exhibition examines how the German reunification made Berlin one of the most important capitals for artists in Europe and thus promoted intercultural dialogue.

In the early 1990s, multicultural Berlin became a melting pot for international artists and creatives, especially in neighborhoods that were already multicultural and where new living space became available. In combination with a unique atmosphere in which memories of the Second World War and the GDR could still be felt, these artists created a world in which "everything" seemed possible for a few decades. Regardless of origin, nationality, skin color, sexuality, or faith - Berlin gave this diverse society new possibilities for a peaceful get-together.

This rebirth of the united metropolis from East and West is the starting point for the development of the diverse art scene that we have in Berlin today and which continues to grow. It has proven to be a model for intercultural dialogue, the exchange of creative ideas and peaceful get-togethers. It is also proof that walls can be dismantled and wounds healed, no matter how traumatizing the history of a city is. This diverse creative community has great healing powers and is a positive counterexample to the currently polarizing society in rights and democrats and in wealthy and poorer citizens.

The German and international artists participating in the exhibition and living in Berlin are: **Minor Alexander, Erik Andersen, Nina Ansari, Claas Bader, Philip Crawford, Mariona Berenguer, Per Christian Brown, Ulrike Buhl, Christa Joo Hyun D'Angelo, Mustafa Dok, GODsDOGS, Harm van den Dorpel, Adam Goldstein, Mia Granhøj, Ekin Su Koc, Miriam Lenk, Shannon Lewis, Nikolaus List, Nine Yamamoto-Masson, Toshihiko Mitsuya, Tere Recarens, Tanasgol Sabbah, Susanne Schirdewahn, Semra Sevin, Zuzanna Zita Skiba, Özer Toraman, Claudia Virginia Vitari, Melody LaVerne Bettencourt, Peter Wilde, Vadim Zakharov**

CHIMERA, the title of the proposed exhibition, derives from the name of a fire-spitting animal from Greek mythology, which has several heads and several beings united in one body. This animal has an imaginary organism

that consists of genetically different tissues created by the fusion of early embryos, refinement or mutation. The CHIMERA is interpreted as an unbelievable creature, at once disgusting and groundbreaking. Myths of the CHIMERA, such as those of ancient poets Ovid and Homer, also speak of another serious aspect: that seeing a CHIMERA is the omen of an imminent catastrophe. Are we confronted with a second reality with regard to the current situation in Berlin? The continuously rising rents, the problems in social housing construction, the increasing intimidation by the new rights, the growing gap between rich and poor, the homogenization of city districts, the tension between anarchy and rules - could the sum of what is currently happening in Berlin be an omen for an upcoming catastrophe, just as it was when sifting through a CHIMERA ? Could the division of Berlin's citizens be imminent?

In this context, it is of great social importance to direct the dialogue towards the diverse cosmopolitan community of artists, in order to find out how a unity in extreme diversity can emerge. The aim is to engage visitors, the press and artists in a dialogue about the emergence of diversity, so that everyone can integrate the results into our educational system, our work and our everyday lives in order to avoid these polarizations as far as possible.

The exhibition will explore both positive and challenging aspects of Berlin's past and present. The invited Berlin artists will each create their own personal vision of "chimerical" Berlin. In doing so, they will relate their individual identity, their personal history, their artistic identity, dreams and hopes and their relationship to Berlin. The artists create fragmented identities, which together will create individual CHIMERA.

These CHIMERAS are visualized in the form of photographs, sculptures, paintings, digital artworks, textiles, performances, projections, and collages. Since this diverse community would not exist without reunification, the opening of CHIMERA on the day of German reunification, October 3. In the period between vernissage and finissage there will be artist talks and a symposium with invited interdisciplinary scientists from various fields of research, culture and real estate.

The exhibition talks about the chimerical identity and the possibilities that reunification has opened up, but also about the challenges we face today and Berlin's perspectives as a city of artists, as well as visions for future living in Berlin. The project space Kunstraum Bethanien in Kreuzberg is the ideal place to show an exhibition about the unification of different people in an unbiased, dynamic space. The Kreuzberg location has not only experienced an immigration from southern Europe and Turkey, but was traditionally also a refuge for conscientious objectors, for homeless runaway youths, for feminists, for anarchists and people with alternative views and attitudes. Today Kreuzberg is home to a mixture of ancestral and recently settled international populations, making it one of Berlin's most diverse neighborhoods.

- Semra Sevin -