

## PRESS INFORMATION

### SCHMUCKISMUS

PRESS CONFERENCE: 15 MARCH 2019, 11.00 A.M.

OPENING: 15 MARCH 2019, 07.00 P.M.

EXHIBITION DURATION: 16 MARCH 2019 – 16 JUNE 2019

Following an invitation by Die Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum, Karen Pontoppidan, Professor of Jewelry and Hollowware at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich (AdBK), has curated an exhibition that looks at studio jewelry as a mirror to critical discourse.

Jewelry is not understood here as some self-referential instrument, but as a possibility and necessity for a reflection of socially relevant content. Topics such as ecology, the consumer society, identity, or feminisms are directly expressed through the medium of jewelry.

Danish-born, internationally renowned jewelry artist Karen Pontoppidan avows: “I don’t favor a single truth environment” – and in this sentence she sums up her stance as an artist, curator and teacher. Her own work questions the meaning and the ethical values of jewelry, including for its owners. Jewelry not only allows questions to be asked of its wearers, but the persons wearing it can also use it to question their environment.

For the exhibition Karen Pontoppidan has invited 30 jewelry artists of the younger and middle generations hailing from different countries to take part – all of them possess a distinctive yet not completed oeuvre. Their works show just how different the themes and contents, materials and production methods are, not to mention, the way they hope their works will be received. What connects all of them is their fundamentally critical stance, which understands jewelry as a medium for socio-critical and socially relevant lines of questioning, also and especially because it is developed from the respective individual perspective. The exhibition concept centers on all of the studio jewelry artists showing both a piece selected by Karen Pontoppidan as well as one purpose-developed specially for the exhibition or they have selected from their oeuvre themselves. The result is a dialogical overview of around 150 objects, all of which were created in the last 15 years.

Furthermore, Karen Pontoppidan has also designed the exhibition itself. Her display cabinets, which have been attached to the balustrade and columns in the rotunda, are made from simple lumber-core plywood with a particle board look, while the object labels use simple everyday paper. In this way, the exhibition displays are both reminiscent of simple informational display cases and self-made improvised supports for communicating alternative voices. One of the art works in the exhibition was not made by an invited artist: The piece “Körperschmuck Abwehrreaktion” by Austrian artist Brigitte Lang from the year 1982 questions social norms and roles in their dialectic and serves as a prelude and leitmotif to the exhibition.

Karen Pontoppidan introduces a further level of meaning to the exhibition by showcasing a collection of badges: Since the 1970s, the Dutch jewelry artists Paul Derrez and Willem Hoogstede have compiled a comprehensive collection of these adornments as they are interested in the phenomenon and the development of the “type of jewelry” as an immediate graphic medium of political expression.

Die Neue Sammlung is delighted to be inviting audiences to enter into a dialogue on the political potential of studio jewelry with the exhibition “SCHMUCKISMUS” and to be able to provide a further and very special contribution to research and discourse surrounding studio jewelry.

A catalogue with texts by Paul Derrez, Hanne Loreck, Angelika Nollert and Karen Pontoppidan will be issued by publishing house arnoldsche Art Publishers on the occasion of the exhibition, featuring a graphic design by Yvonne Quirnbach, Berlin.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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