



PRESS RELEASE

SOLO SHOW ULRIKE BOLENZ DER EWIGE MENSCH **30 AUGUST – 24 OCTOBER 2020**

Husk Gallery is very pleased to present the first exhibition of Ulrike Bolenz's works. With a series of new works, this solo show offers an introduction to this Belgian/German artist's extensive oeuvre.

The title of the *Der ewige Mensch* exhibition refers to the recent eponymous mixed-media work by Ulrike Bolenz. This monumental work summarises the essence of her artistic practice. In accordance with her artistic creed, her work is not disconnected from reality, even if it is created in the privacy of her studio. According to Ulrike Bolenz, the artist is a loner who strives for truth and beauty, yet does not avoid the bustle of community living, current politics and scientific innovation.

Human existence is central to Ulrike Bolenz's works – life and death as a subtle *memento mori*, the fragility of our existence, human togetherness and beauty. Although, at first sight, her human figures express pain and despair, they are strong, forward-looking and proud. Time and again, the artist succeeds in giving them dignity, individuality and self-confidence in the context of her recurring themes: the current debate and research on cloning and genetic and social engineering, and also the massification of human beings in works such as *Codierung* and the *Gruppe* series.

Ulrike Bolenz does not only paint portraits of eminent politicians; she has also painted intimate portraits of her blind father, now dead, in the *Augenblick* series. Yet she seeks inspiration in the universal themes of our collective memory, for instance by depicting herself as a female centaur or a European warrior goddess. She is also not afraid to take on major themes in contemporary history paintings, or to hold up a critical mirror to the viewer in works such as *Beresina* and her latest series *Floss der Medusa*.

Since 1995, Ulrike Bolenz has been a pioneer of "photoplastic" art, which uses photographs on transparent media such as Perspex and polycarbonate, which she then touches up. The result is a unique symbiosis of photography, transparent sculpture and painting. By using and transforming digital media, she creates layered works which explore current social issues. The content of her photoplastic works is also reflected in her expressionistic paintings.

Short CV

Ulrike Bolenz (°1958, Castrop-Rauxel, Germany) lives and works in Vilvoorde, Belgium. She studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kassel, Germany. Her work has been exhibited internationally. Solo and group exhibitions were held in Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, France, Italy, Russia and Turkmenistan. Recent notable international exhibitions include the Russian Museum, Sankt Petersburg (2019), the MMOMA, Moscow, Russia (2020) and The international Photo Exhibition in The National State Cultural Center of Turkmenistan (2020). Her work can be found in the following public and private collections: Collection Thyssen Berlin, Collection of the Senat for Culture of Berlin (Germany); Banque Brussels Lambert, Johnson & Johnson, Jan De Nul Private Collection, ORSI Academy and Art Collection Galila Barzilai – Hollander (Belgium); Fondation Francès, Art collection and The Safa Collection (France); Moscow Museum of Modern Art (Russia) and the Qatar Foundation Minister of Culture (Qatar).

Opening days Sunday 30 August 2020 from 2 to 7 pm & 3-4-5-6 September 2020 from 11 am to 7 pm
Gallery opening hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 pm, and by appointment.

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