



PRESS RELEASE

'FACIALITY – BEYOND THE SILK ROAD' FIRST BELGIAN SOLO SHOW BY INGE H. SCHMIDT 5 SEPTEMBER – 26 OCTOBER 2019

Husk Gallery is pleased to present the first Belgian solo show of the Berlin-based German artist Inge H. Schmidt. The inaugural exhibition 'Faciality – Beyond the Silk Road' offers a first introduction to the extensive painterly body of work through a selection of her renowned series of 'Heads' and landscapes.

Faciality - Beyond the Silk Road is a solo show by Inge H. Schmidt featuring geographically selected works of her series of 'Heads' and landscapes. From 2007 to 2011 she travelled with a backpack and sketch book along the old Silk Road in Asia and 2016/17 in Iran, including Hormuz and Qeshm Islands (Bandari Women). The 'Heads' are portraits of people she met and drew during her journeys in Central Asia (Pamir Mountains, Wakhan Corridor, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan), China (Xinjiang (Western China), East Tibet, Yunnan, Sichuan, Beijing), South Siberia (Altai, Tuva, Khakassia, Buryatia) and in the Caucasus Mountains (Georgia and Azerbaijan). The artist drew faces of ethnic minorities trying to survive in the lonely huts of the Pamir Mountains, marching through the snowy woods of Siberia or building their existence in sand-covered loam houses at the edges of the Taklamakan desert. Text fragments from her travel diary accompany the exhibited works and offer glimpses of these people's unique life stories. As nature plays a major role and challenges their daily life, Schmidt's landscapes of the overwhelming natural environment along the Silk Road were added to the exhibition. Some faces and landscapes have left such deep marks on the artist and will probably affect her artistically for a lifetime.

The exhibition offers more than a visual and textual travel report of personal encounters and sublime landscapes. By linking Inge H. Schmidt's faces of Asian ethnic minorities and forsaken landscapes to Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's *Faciality* concept, the art works reveal the close correlation between face and landscape. The title of the exhibition implies a philosophical approach which goes beyond the Silk Road.

Influenced by the centuries-old European tradition of depicting the human figure, Inge H. Schmidt (born 1952, Wiehe, Germany) is best known as a painter and drawer of 'Heads' with an expressively charged realism. The 'Heads' are mostly portraits of unknown people. As a passionate traveller, she is inspired by encounters with people in remote parts of the world. The adventurous backpack journeys with paint and sketch block have taken her not only to Eurasia, but also to territories in South East Asia and Latin America. With her particular feel for colour and remarkable brushwork, she succeeds in capturing the universality of human beings within indeterminate spaces. Besides her 'Heads', she also paints landscapes and still lifes in her distinctive, expressionistic, gestural and colourful style.

Inge H. Schmidt (born 1952, Wiehe, Germany) lives and works in Berlin. She completed her MA in Art History and Germanics at the University of Leipzig in 1977 before undertaking a Painting and Graphic Arts Degree at the Burg Giebichenstein Art College in Halle, graduating in 1983. In 1984 she emigrated from East Germany to West Berlin and studied painting at the Berlin College of Arts until 1988.

Recent international solo exhibitions include *Colours of Life*, United Nations, New York, USA (2016); *Colours of Life*, Brothers Fine Art Gallery, Marfa, USA (2016); *Inspiration Desert*, Bismarck Art Gallery, Marfa, USA (2015) and *Colours of Life*, Museum Center, Baku, Azerbaijan (2013). Solo and group exhibitions were held in Germany, USA, Azerbaijan, Poland, France, Mexico, Italy, Great Britain, South Korea and Georgia. Since 1994 she is a guest professor and lecturer at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Baku, Azerbaijan and at the HTK Academy Berlin, the University of the Arts Berlin, the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam and at Potsdam University. In 2012 she was granted an honorary doctorate at the State Academy of Fine Arts of Baku, Azerbaijan.

Opening Thursday 5 September 2019 from 5 to 9 pm

Opening hours

Brussels Gallery Weekend > Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 September 2019 from 1 to 6 pm

Gallery opening hours during exhibitions > Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 pm

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#ingehschmidt #facialitybeyondthesilkroad