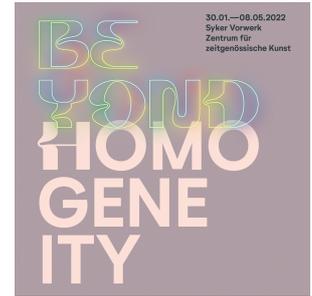


BEYOND HOMOGENEITY

30 January – 8 May 2022

Artists: Marwa Arsanios | Delaine Le Bas | Helen Cammock |
Andrew Gilbert | Manaf Halbouni | Jasleen Kaur | Mónica de Miranda |
Harold Offeh | Ahmet Ögüt | Lerato Shadi



The large-scale exhibition focuses on positions of international contemporary art that deal with the relationship between art and society. Certainly, this concern characterises a topos of art production, hence it is a central theme not only of art history, art theory and art criticism, but also of curatorial practice. The specificity of *Beyond Homogeneity*, however, is more narrowly defined. It lies both in the reference of the content-related debate and in the positioning of its actors. The latter are the artists Marwa Arsanios, Delaine Le Bas, Helen Cammock, Andrew Gilbert, Manaf Halbouni, Jasleen Kaur, Monica de Miranda, Harold Offeh, Ahmet Ögüt and Lerato Shadi.

The conception of the exhibition goes back to the thesis that there is a critical art that deals with asymmetries and discrepancies of social reality and operates at the core of the art system. An art – so the particular focus of the exhibition – that starts from an expanded understanding of culture and society and is created by a type of art-making person who moves between cultures and thus overrides binary schemes of thought in the common coinages of the own versus the foreign, the autochthonous versus the allochthonous, the centre versus the periphery. An art and an art-creating individual – to put it succinctly – beyond homogeneity.

Using different means and aesthetic strategies, the ten artists in the exhibition highlight the critical reflexivity of contemporary art. In doing so, an artistic engagement becomes clear that does not result from the needs of an existing and evolving concept of art, but rather from a critical reflection on the factors and conditions of contemporary society, which keeps becoming more and more complex. Since they act between coexisting cultural contexts not only through their artistic practice, but also through the characteristics of their biography and way of life, they take a stand on the complexity of the common reality and draw attention to the dialogical moment in the encounter of cultural and subjective diversity. They suspend asymmetrical polarities as well as the notion of alterity as an antithesis to identity. In this way, they reveal the dialogicity and pluriperspectivity of culture and create spaces for third values that release what constitutes the common beyond all differences.

Beyond Homogeneity is based on an art-historical and -theoretical approach, but goes beyond this in its ambition. Through the artistic practice of the participating artists, the exhibition explores the traits of a broad, transnational phenomenon within contemporary art provides evidence to support the account that underlies the empirical observation. The main concern here is not an academic attempt to prove a hypothesis, but rather the political consequence that results from it. We understand the latter as a contribution to the equal coexistence of differences. This is precisely the core, content and programme of the exhibition. By pointedly displaying the critical clout of contemporary art, the exhibition creates a space for critical reflection and sensitisation and thus contributes to the achievement of a more equitable reality characterised by heterogeneity and diversity.

[Alejandro Perdomo Daniels](#), curator

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We / Sa 14-18
Su / public holidays 11-18