

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

**galerie burster** karlsruhe

Finja Sander | *Fernab jeglicher Schwere*

31 March – 6 April 2023

Opening

Friday, 31 March 2023, 6 – 9 pm

The exhibition *Fernab jeglicher Schwere* is part of Finja Sander's multimedia work series *Für Morgen*. In her first solo show at galerie burster Karlsruhe, the artist continues her intensive questioning of German culture of remembrance and commemoration and, based on this, develops three spaces that are occupied by performance, sculpture and photography.

For the work *Performance 37*, Sander uses 20.000 posters printed with the omnipresent exclamation *Für Morgen*. She pastes these on top of each other in a process that takes several days. Whenever a critical mass of glued sheets is reached that threatens to slip off the wall, the block is removed from the wall and piled up on the floor to form a stele. If the repetitive gesture initially reminds us of politically motivated interventions in public urban space, the fleetingly formulated message builds up over the course of the work process into a cubic, anonymous-looking monument.

In the exhibition, too, the performative gesture is the starting point and a connecting element between the works on display. The smoked glass panel, which hovers just above the floor and is framed in oak wood, originates from an earlier performance by the artist. Hanging horizontally, it now refers to the ongoing, performative series *Für Morgen\_standort\_1-12*, in which Sander deals with the Güstrow memorial "Der Schwebende" by Ernst Barlach and imitates it with the help of her own body hanging in a scaffold.

A small-format photograph contrasts with the solid-looking glass plate and, with its motivic reference, expands the content-related space of the objects shown. Also set in oak, the choice of material appears to function as a subtle framing of the exhibition, given Sander's preoccupation with German history, its symbols of identification and its ideological entanglements.

The glass wreaths, displayed on oak plateaus in the back room of the gallery, evoke associations with national mourning rallies and commemorative ceremonies. In the interplay of fragile glass fragments, solid wood and fir branches draped on the floor, Sander develops a re-evaluation of the role of commemoration, away from concrete historical references. Only the reduction to material and repetitive gestures, the formal disassociation from concrete historical and ideological references, enables reflection on the obstacles and potentials of contemporary culture of remembrance. — Nikolas Geier

Finja Sander (b. 1996 in Hildesheim, Germany) chooses the medium of performance as a recurring constant. Her own body is the impulse-giving initiator, a kind of seismograph. Her performances have been shown at C/O Berlin (2019), the Museum für Fotografie, Berlin (2021), and Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2021), among others. Sander graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Universität der Künste Berlin in the class of Valérie Favre in the summer of 2022.

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Opening hours: Wednesday – Friday 2 – 6 pm | Saturday 12 – 3 pm and by appointment