

# swiss institute

**Heidi Bucher**

**February 19 – May 11, 2014**

Swiss Institute is delighted to present the first exhibition by Swiss artist Heidi Bucher (1926-1993) at an American institution in more than 40 years. The exhibition presents a unique selection of Bucher's most significant works, along with screenings of audiovisual documentation and never before seen archival materials.

Born in Winterthur, Bucher moved to California in the 1960s. In the United States, she befriended Edward Kienholz and collaborated with her husband, Carl Bucher, on *Bodyshells*, a series of wearable sculptures exhibited at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1972. Continuing her exploration of the relationship between clothing and architecture, she returned to Switzerland in the mid-1970s and began her most iconic body of work, latex casts of objects and architectural elements.

*Herrenzimmer* (1977-79), Bucher's first major "Raumhaut" (room skin), is a molding of the master bedroom of her parents' Winterthur house. The room's heavy, ornate décor and familial history are literally lifted up by the hanging process and the work's ghostly translucence. *Grande Albergo Brissago (Eingangsportal)* (1987), which has never before been exhibited in an institutional context, is a majestic imprint of a hotel's grandiose entry doors. It was realized in Brissago, a Swiss village on the western shore of Lake Maggiore, where the European intelligentsia gathered during World War II. Among other major works in the exhibition, *Jetzt fließt das Wasser aus der Vase* (1986) signals the artist's interest in the representation of movement and fluidity in sculpture.

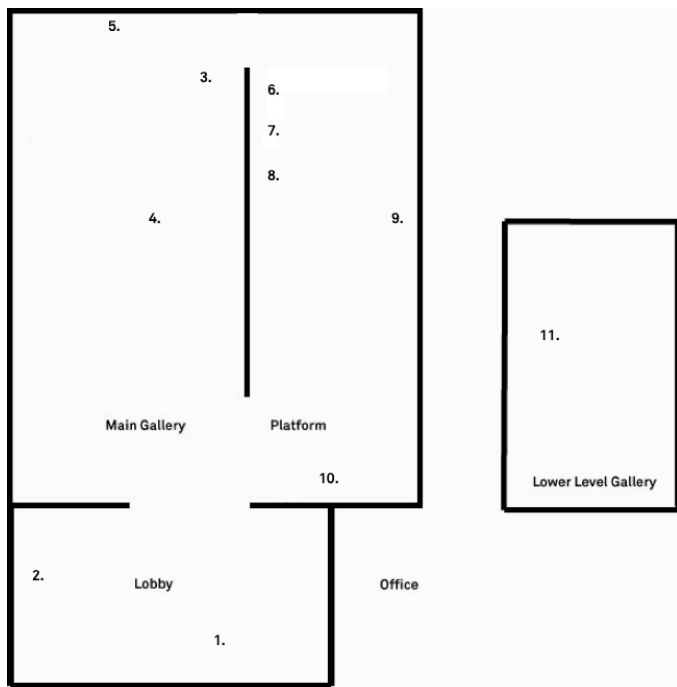
Through her conjoined process of embalming and sloughing, Bucher's work conjures themes of memory and extrication, documentation and transformation. Most enduringly, the question of material remains a thread connecting a long, performative, self-archeological undertaking.

The Heidi Bucher exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, with generous additional support from Jill & Peter Kraus.

Heidi Bucher's work has been exhibited extensively throughout Europe and North America. In 2004, Bucher was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich, Switzerland. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada; Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, France; Museum für Gestaltung, Zürich, Switzerland; Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland; and the Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Germany; among others. Bucher's work is in the permanent collection of the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich, Switzerland.

Swiss Institute thanks Mayo & Indigo Bucher, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Alexander Gray Associates and Freymond Guth Fine Arts.

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#### Platform (Clockwise)

6. *Schublade*, 1976  
Textile, latex, glue  
Dimensions approx. 55 x 34 x 10 cm (21 ¾ x 13 ½ x 4 in)  
Courtesy Jill and Peter Kraus Collection
7. *Untitled (9 Objects)*, Ca. 1972-1987  
Pearlescent pigment, latex, foam, tulle, soap, fabric  
Dimensions variable  
Courtesy Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich
8. *Untitled (Casein glue house)*, Ca. 1976-1983  
Casein glue, watercolor on foam  
Dimensions approx. 128 x 62 x 22 cm (50 ½ x 24 ½ x 8 ¾ in)  
Courtesy Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich
9. *Grande Albergo Brissago (Eingangsportal)*, 1987  
Textile, latex, PVAC glue, gouache  
Dimensions approx. 386 x 742 x 92 cm (152 x 292 x 36 in)  
Courtesy Jill and Peter Kraus Collection
10. *Schrank Haus Winterthur-Wüflingen*, Undated  
Latex, cotton  
Dimensions approx. 225 x 210 cm (88 ½ x 82 ½ in)  
Courtesy Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich

#### Lobby (Clockwise)

1. *Das Ahnenhaus / Obermühle (Modell)*, 1981  
Painted wood, mother of pearl  
Dimensions approx. 110 x 63 x 52 cm (43 x 25 x 20 ½ in)  
Courtesy Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich
2. *Mixed Media*  
Archival material, printed matter  
Mayo and Indigo Bucher Collection

#### Main Gallery (Clockwise)

3. *Jetzt fließt das Wasser aus der Vase*, 1986  
Pearlescent pigment, latex, acrylic  
Dimensions approx. 154 x 665 x 64 cm (60 x 261 x 25in)  
Courtesy Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich
4. *Untitled (Herrenzimmer)*, undated  
Latex, cotton  
Dimensions approx. 260 x 180 x 20 cm (102 ¼ x 71 x 7 ½ in)  
Courtesy Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich
5. *Parquet floor of study in Winterthur-Wüflingen*, 1979  
Latex, cotton, trunk  
Dimensions approx. 56 x 75 x 75 cm (22 x 29 ½ x 29 ½ in)  
Courtesy Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich

#### Lower Level Gallery (Screenings)

11. Room 1: *Body Shells, Venice Beach*, 1972  
Film transferred to DVD, 2:33min  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Room 1: *Ab-Los-Raus-Wegfliegling*, 1982  
Super8 transferred to DVD, 12:13min  
Martin Kugler, Winterthur

Room 1: *Der Fliegende Hautraum*, 1981  
Super8 transferred to DVD, 3:20min  
Martin Kugler, Winterthur

Room 1: *Grande Albergo Brissago*, 1984  
Video transferred to DVD, 7:20min  
Isa Hesse

Room 1: *La Prison, Le Landeron*, 1985  
Video transferred to DVD, 4:01min  
Anka Schmid

Room 1: *Bellevue, Kreuzlingen*, 1990  
16mm transferred to DVD, 8:57min  
Michael Koechlin, SWF3

Room 2: *Räume sind hüllen, sind Häute (Rooms are surroundings, are skins)*, 1981  
16mm transferred to DVD, 32min  
George Reinhart, Winterthur

All screenings from *Heidi Bucher: Die Filmische Biografie / Cinematic Biography*, 2004  
Courtesy Mayo Bucher and ArtAdventures GmbH, Zürich