

VALIE EXPORT. Fragments of a Touch

The **solo exhibition "VALIE EXPORT. Fragments of a Touch"** at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden focuses on installations and groups of works that highlight a special **moment in the artist's oeuvre: touch. The theme of touch is not only to be understood** in the physical sense but also includes a media-reflective level. It functions as a definition of the border or even as the transition between realities: between image and space, matter and emptiness, body and environment. Especially in times of social distancing and the Covid-19 pandemic, the theme of the exhibition takes on a special relevance: will it still be possible this year to return to old patterns of behaviour and contact or will the theme of contact and touch remain fragmented, as indicated in the exhibition title?

The pointing to and crossing of boundaries can be found in various media in the **oeuvre of VALIE EXPORT** – both in room-sized installations and in her films. The exhibition will thus show that the means and forms of expression used by VALIE EXPORT are often based on precise observations and analyses of social and media constructions. **VALIE EXPORT is considered a pioneer of "expanded cinema"**, conceptual photography, installation, performance, work with text and theory. This is also reflected in the selection of works for the solo exhibition: Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden presents not only large room installations but also a selection of her cinematic work, which is presented in a separate cinema space. The exhibition departs from the usual chronological arrangement of monographic exhibitions and also from the frequently exhibited works from the early creative years of EXPORT. Rather, it follows a deliberate curatorial decision that emphasizes the complexity and interlocking of the most diverse works and media in order to show the development of the artistic motifs, their semantic shifts, their divergent media character, and the diversity of approaches to the theme of touch.

The exhibition is curated by Hendrik Bündge und Luisa Heese, together with Carolin Potthast.

VALIE EXPORT (*17 May 1940 in Linz, Austria) became a pioneer of feminist performance art and a forerunner of Expanded Cinema in the late 1960s. She became known to a larger public in 1968 through the action "TAPP und TASTKINO". For this piece, passers-by at the Stachus in Munich were invited to touch EXPORT's breasts with their hands for a few seconds through a small portable cinema made of Styrofoam which was strapped to VALIE's chest. In 1977 the artist participated in documenta 6, and in 1980 she represented Austria at the Venice Biennale together with Maria Lassnig. Today, many of her works are considered classics of feminist art. They have been shown in numerous exhibitions and publications. VALIE EXPORT lives in Vienna.

Further information: www.valieexport.at

VALIE EXPORT is Brenners Artist in Residence 2020.



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The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.



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