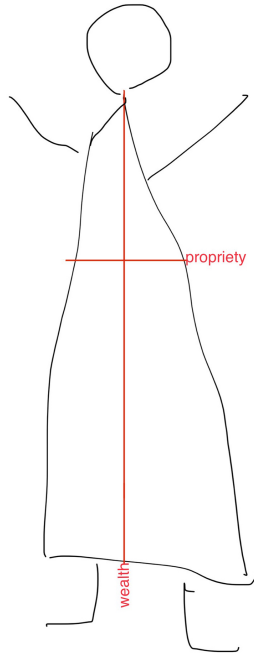


Anna-Sophie Berger
Wealth and Propriety
November 17, 2022 – January 14, 2023



Wealth and Propriety

This graph alleges a simple correspondence between the vertical dimension of a garment (length) with the term “wealth” and between the horizontal dimension of a garment (thickness) with the term “propriety”.

This can be interpreted to mean that the length of the hemline of a garment corresponds to increasing wealth and that its relative thickness – or its layers – corresponds to increasing propriety.

To showcase conspicuously one’s wealth would register negatively upon one’s propriety. However, increased proprietous thickness could be seen as a positive counterbalance to the negative impact of conspicuous length.

If we interpret propriety not as financial modesty but as sexual demureness – the covering of the naked body – say, in a societal framework where class relations are assumed to be god given, relative wealth expressed in long dresses covering the body would further increase ones propriety. Likewise, an increase of material in thickness would bolster the notion of material exuberance associated with wealth.

The aspirational citizen then is an ever expanding sphere.

Anna-Sophie Berger (b. 1989, Vienna, Austria) is an artist living and working in New York and Vienna. She has had solo exhibitions at Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2020); Cell Project Space, London (2019); MUMOK, Vienna (2016); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2016); Ludlow 38, NY (2015); White Flag Projects, St. Louis (2015); and Belvedere21, Vienna (2014); among others. She has recently participated in group exhibitions at the Pictures Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna (2022); The Glucksman, Cork (2022); MACRO Museum, Rome (2021); aMAK, Austria (2019); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2019); Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem (2018); S.M.A.K., Ghent (2018); Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2018); Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (2017); Kunstverein Munchen, Munich (2017). She is the recipient of the 2017 Ars Viva Fine Arts Prize in Germany and the 2016 Kapsch Contemporary Art Prize, Austria.

Berger was trained in fashion and, in her work as an artist, has explored issues of protection and care as they might relate to clothing, housing, public space and law. She creates work that connects individual perception and intimate use with questions of material reality as part of socio-economic circulation and consumption.

Exhibited Works

Crimson, 2022

Satin silk

90 x 120 cm (35.4 x 47.2 in)

proprietary & poor, 2022

Inkjet on paper, frame

100 x 135 cm (39.3 x 53.1 in)

lewd & poor, 2022

Inkjet on paper, frame

100 x 135 cm (39.3 x 53.1 in)

lewd & wealthy, 2022

Inkjet on paper, frame

100 x 135 cm (39.3 x 53.1 in)

proprietary & wealthy, 2022

Inkjet on paper, frame

100 x 135 cm (39.3 x 53.1 in)