

ARCH is pleased to announce the exhibition Exploding Plastic Inevitable by Lena Henke.

Lena Henke lives and works in New York City and Berlin.

Lena Henke tests the possibilities of sculpture through technically innovative methods of production, expanding its traditional meaning by confronting themes of femaleness and the production of power relations in urban space. The capacities of sculpture serve Henke as a basis for understanding the molding (and casting) of bodies as a changeable process of design. In series like Hooves, Boobs, and Sand Bodies, Henke blends mimetic forms with surrealist imagery, engaging the myth of masculinity while working within historical traditions to interrogate the logic of sculptural representation and representability. Her interventions in the psychology of existing urban structures—such as relocating exhibition entrances or altering street signage—allow her to grasp urbanity as a historically evolved sculpture. By weaving feminist and autobiographical threads into her work, Henke opens a compelling space where sculpture meets social critique, reimagining both form and environment.

In 2025, Lena Henke will present solo exhibitions at Galerie Thomas Schulte during Gallery Weekend Berlin, followed by a spring season show in New York City at Bortolami Gallery, before mounting a summer exhibition at ARCH, Athens—coinciding with Art Basel.

Henke has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA (2018); Hessel Museum of Art, New York, USA (2018); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2018); Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2017); Sprengelmuseum Hannover, Germany (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, USA (2017); Timisoara Contemporary Art Biennale, Romania (2017); Manifesta 11, Zurich, Switzerland (2016); The 9th; Berlin Biennale, Germany (2016); La Biennale de Montréal, Canada (2016); Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany (2016); Triennale of Small Scale Sculpture, Fellbach, Germany (2016); S.A.L.T.S., Basel, Switzerland (2016); The New Museum, New York, USA (2015); Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, USA (2015); Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland (2014); Kuenstlerhaus Graz, Austria (2014); White Flag Projects, St. Louis, USA (2014); Sculpture Museum Glaskasten, Marl, Germany (2014); Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA (2013) and Kunstverein Aachen, Germany (2012), among others.

Henke is the recipient of several prestigious awards and grants including the Marta Herford Award (2022) of the Wemhöner Foundation, the 8th RUBENSFÖRDERPREIS of the city of Siegen, Germany in cooperation with the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (both 2019). In 2024 she was named artist honoree of the year by the arts organization Topical Cream, New York.

Her work has been discussed in numerous publications including Artforum, Frieze, Art in America, The New York Times, Artnews and Spike magazine, in addition to several exhibition catalogues.

#### EDUCATION

2004-2010

Academy of Fine Arts, Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main  
MA Contemporary Art, class of Professor Michael Krebber

2008-2009

Master of Fine Art Multidisciplinary, Glasgow School of Art  
Scotland, as an Erasmus scholarship holder

#### RECENT SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

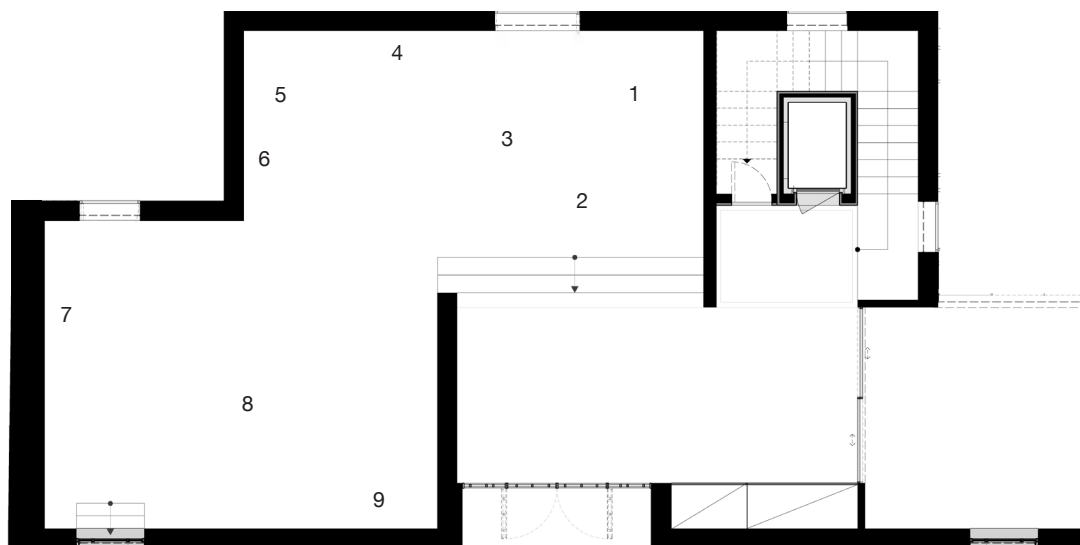
2025, Exploding Plastic Inevitable, ARCH, Athens, Greece (forthcoming); Pedro Cera, Lisbon, Portugal (forthcoming); Grotto, Berlin, Germany (forthcoming); The City Transformed, Bortolami, New York, USA; Horizontale & Vertikale Skulptur, Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, Germany. 2024, Dark Glasses, Layr, Vienna, Austria. 2023, You and your vim, Rooftop Commission, Aspen Museum, Aspen, Colorado, USA; Good Year, Museum Marta Herford, Herford, Germany; Nature wills it, The Ranch, Montauk, New York, USA. 2022, Auf dem Asphalt botanisieren gehen, Klosterfelde Edition, Berlin, Germany; Lena Henke, Aldo Rossi's Sleeping Elephant, Carlone Contemporary, Belvedere, Vienna, Austria. 2020, Babysteps into Masochism, Layr, Vienna, Austria; Ice To Gas, Pedro Cera, Lisbon, Portugal.

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Henke's work is included in the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA; Kunstsammlung des Bundes, Berlin, Germany; Kunstsammlung des Bundes, Bonn, Germany; Belvedere Museum, Vienna, Austria; Hessel Museum of Art in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, USA; Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Florida, USA; the MAMCO - the modern and contemporary Art Museum, Geneva, Switzerland; Sammlungsverbund Wien, Austria; Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, New York, USA; Skulpturen Park Köln, Cologne, Germany; Skulpturen

Opening: June 5, 7PM, 2025

Hours of operation: Tuesday – Saturday (11 AM – PM) or by appointment



1. *Untitled, 2025 (Green Hoof)*  
Stoneware, glaze, kintsugi.  
57 x 27 x 55 cm

2. *Untitled, 2025 (Red Hoof)*  
Stoneware, glaze, lacquer.  
57 x 27 x 55 cm

3. *Untitled, 2025 (Silver Hoof)*  
Stoneware, glaze, lacquer.  
57 x 27 x 55 cm

4. *Untitled, 2020*  
Watercolor and pastels on paper  
40 x 50 cm (unframed) | 59 x 50 x 4,5 cm  
Courtesy the artist & Layr, Vienna

5. *Untitled, 2025 (Multicoloured Hoof)*  
Stoneware, glaze, lacquer.  
57 x 27 x 55 cm

6. *Untitled, 2020*  
Watercolor and pastels on paper  
28 x 35 cm | 44 x 36,3 x 4,5 cm  
Courtesy the artist & Layr, Vienna

7. *Not yet titled, 2021*  
Watercolor and pastels on paper  
34 x 48 cm | 43 x 57 x 4,5 cm  
Courtesy the artist & Layr, Vienna

8. *Unforced Error, 2025.*  
Aluminum, pigment.  
80 x 250 x 68 cm

9. *Untitled, 2021*  
Watercolor and pastels on paper  
30 x 42 cm | 38,5 x 48,5 x 4,5 cm  
Courtesy the artist & Layr, Vienna