

Anna-Sophie Berger (born 1989 in Vienna) is the first prizewinner of the Kapsch Contemporary Art Prize, which was instated jointly by the Kapsch Group and mumok in 2016 to promote young artists living mainly in Austria. The prize comes with 5,000 euro and a solo exhibition at mumok, including a publication. In addition a work by the prizewinning artist is purchased by the Kapsch Group for the mumok collection.

In her solo exhibition *Places to fight and to make up* the artist reflects on questions regarding communication. The exhibited works focus on the influence of modern mass media on our society's capability to engage with dialogue and discourse as well as on our use and preservation of objects. For Berger objects have different capacities, which they display depending on the environment they are inserted to. The artist is concerned with the sociological component of the object – in particular with its specific handling. The object is not to be seen as a discrete entity but rather as a part of human life. This perspective allows the artist to explore the formal and functional properties of objects in transient environments. It enables her to make transformation visible, closely intertwined with the emotions and intentions of the perceiving subject.

The site-specific installation, made exclusively for mumok, features at its center a pair of concrete parabolic reflectors. These structures were taken from a common playground in the third communal district of Vienna and then transferred to the museum – an environment equally intended for public use though with completely different parameters. What is meant for the amusement of children also playfully promotes communication as a sensory experience. The installation is not deploring changes in our communication behavior, but rather acts as a reference to environments where discourse is possible. Depending on its location, the object gains a specific form of re-evaluation. The structures previously disregarded as dated playground objects covered in graffiti become a designated artwork in a museum only to return after the exhibition.

In conjunction with her exhibition *Places to fight and to make up*, Anna-Sophie Berger is creating an artist's book entitled *MANUAL*, which is meant to be a component and an extension of the installation. With texts by Anna-Sophie Berger, Marianne Dobner and Tess Edmonson.

The artist

Anna-Sophie Berger studied fashion design and transmedia art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions and has presented her first solo shows, including JTT and Ludlow 38 in New York, the White Flag Projects Library in St. Louis, the 21er Haus and Mauve in Vienna. Up to May 17, she exhibited at KUB Billboards at Kunsthaus Bregenz. Since 2015 she has been teaching at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in the Department of Art

and Knowledge Transfer.

The Kapsch Contemporary Art Prize 2016

Ten art experts invited seventeen artists to apply for the Kapsch Contemporary Art Prize. An international jury consisting of mumok director Karola Kraus, Georg Kapsch, CEO of the Kapsch Group, Eva Birkenstock, director of the Kunstverein Dusseldorf, Yilmaz Dziewior, director of the Museum Ludwig, and Stephanie Weber, curator for contemporary art at the Lenbachhaus Munich, selected the artist Anna-Sophie Berger as the first prizewinner of this new art prize.

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