

art berlin presents “*Verlörung*”, a 100sqm collective booth curated by Tenzing Barshee, which inaugurates the fair’s new *Salon* format. Bringing together more than 50 works (from more than 40 galleries), *Salon* continues art berlin’s commitment to experimenting with the dimensions of exhibition, commercial fair and modes of display.

The title “*Verlörung*” merges the German words “*Verlangen*” and “*Verstörung*” (Desire and Disturbance). It embodies the curatorial motivation to both fuse and contaminate meaning by gathering art works into an ensemble from which latent, implicit, and unexpected connections can emerge and grow. Instead of imposing a blanket curatorial theme, the curator’s selection here, therefore, centers around a flexibly conceived set of concepts including viscerality, humor, darkness, libido, as well as imagining the figurative and the abstract as two moments in a single continuum.

Contingency—and an insistence on incorporating incidentals, randomness, and open dialogue—shaped the process of selecting works as well the exhibition logic itself. To emphasize the curatorial approach, Barshee collaborated with artist and architect Alessandro Bava to design a structure that simultaneously differentiates and camouflages itself from standard fair booths. Bava’s concept uses a simple algorithm to generate sets of walls as three-dimensional architectural pockets that maximize wall space and create a labyrinthine space of encounter.

“*Verlörung*” is the epilogue to a sequence of exhibitions, which were realized in a variety of different frames and contexts, including “*Here Here–The I and everything else*” (2018) at BRAUNSFELDER, a private collection in Cologne, “*Der Verdienst. 2014-2017*” (2017) and “*Le Mérite. 2014-2016*” (2016) at Oracle and Treize, project spaces in Berlin and Paris, respectively, “*Who Are Who*” at Studio for Propositional Cinema, a former artist’s space in Duesseldorf, and “*Revelry*” (2014) at Kunsthalle Bern, amongst others.

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