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Mary Bauermeister / Zuvielisation

June 3rd until August 7th, 2022

Opening / Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, from 6pm

Satellite exhibition in Humorkirche Wiesbaden-Erbenheim

2022 marks the 60th anniversary of *Fluxus – Internationale Festspiele Neuerer Musik* that took place in Wiesbaden in 1962. As the start of this anniversary, Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden hosts a satellite exhibition in Humorkirche Erbenheim that offers insights into the work of Mary Bauermeister, whose *Atelier Bauermeister* decisively paved the way for Fluxus.

A large, oversized wooden table stands in the middle of the church nave of the **Humorkirche**, a private museum in Wiesbaden-Erbenheim belonging to the collector couple Ute and Michel Berger. One end of the table holds a single, meagre wooden bowl, the other end depicts the aftermath of a feast: a noble set of china and countless empty bottles. The seating arrangements, too, vary in their dimensions: from a tiny, inconspicuous wooden stool to an oversized, upholstered throne. In between, two long benches seemingly hold enough space, but the table appears uninviting, forcing the positioning of the self on either the "poor" side with too little on it, or the "rich" side, with too much of everything.

"Too much, too much, too much": Are we living in a "Zuvielisation", a civilisation of "too much"? Mary Bauermeister's large-sized installation **Zuvielisation** (created in 2015 for the Mittelrhein-Museum in Koblenz) forms the centrepiece of the collaborative satellite exhibition of the same name of **Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden** and the collector couple Ute and Michael Berger, taking place in the Humorkirche in Wiesbaden-Erbenheim. Characteristic for Mary Bauermeister's oeuvre is the inclusion of socially relevant topics such as the critical reflection of today's consumer society. The room installation **Zuvielisation** is accompanied by a sound installation by the artist's son, the composer Simon Stockhausen, as well as other works by Mary Bauermeister that give an insight into her work and an edition created specifically on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of Nassauischer Kunstverein consisting of 30 unique works.

Exhibiting works of the pre-Fluxus-artist Mary Bauermeister embeds the 1962 Fluxus movement that started in Wiesbaden into a wider historical context. Through her work, Mary Bauermeister became an influential figure early on: as early as 1960/61, Bauermeister invited artists such as John Cage, George Brecht, Benjamin Patterson and Nam June Paik to **Atelier Bauermeister** in Lintgasse 38 in Cologne for concerts "of newest music", readings, exhibitions and performances. Especially the **Contre-Festival** in 1960 brought together for the first time many of the artists who later operated under the name of Fluxus.

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Bauermeister created the festival as a counter event to the official 1960 **World (New) Music Days Festival** in Cologne, initiated by the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM). Thereby, she not only shaped the art scene in Cologne but also the international avant-garde. While her work has dismissively been considered "female handicraft" in Germany, it has been celebrated in New York since 1962. It was many years later that her work found recognition in Germany.

Mary Bauermeister has connected art and life from the start – a connection that later formed the framework of Fluxus art. The exhibition thus also shows one of her well-known Lichttücher, her "light sheets". On her travels through Sicilian villages, the artist saw patched bed sheets drying on clotheslines between houses. The sun was illuminating them from behind, revealing the abstract shapes resulting from the patchwork. To Mary Bauermeister, those sheets were full of stories about human life, about giving birth, about sleeping, dying, loving. Mary Bauermeister bought those sheets from the local farmers in exchange for new sheets and 1000 lira to later mount them onto light boxes. Her "light sheets" thereby reveal an imperfect, truthful beauty that can be found in the most ordinary of things – once made visible.

Alongside 63 bed sheets, Mary Bauermeister brought back to Germany many shirts, pants and nightgowns from Sicily, using the material for installations, light boxes and costumes. She called this group of works **Ready Trouvées** and dedicated it to Marcel Duchamp. She later complemented the series of sheets and clothing with underwear and bobbin laced lingerie, customarily worn by the upper classes. The Installation **Auch nur ein Mensch** (no date) once more symbolises and visualises the poles "poor" and "rich", "too much" and "too little". Undergarments, torn up and sewn back together, come into contact with an elaborately crafted priest garb – and with it two textiles, worn close to the bodies of two different people from two different classes living in two different realities and yet are both "only human".

A piano frame in the Humorkirche invites visitors to immediate participation, to spontaneous improvisation where the possibilities of the imagination are endless and the keys in no way limit the musical freedom. Which sound does knocking on the frame make? What happens when the strings are strummed? How many hands and feet can play the piano at the same time? Does a "too much" or "too little" exist here?

Mary Bauermeister's work is accompanied by four films about the artist herself. **psst pp Piano – Hommage a Mary Bauermeister** (2009, 11 min.) is an animated film by **Gregor Zootzky** that stages art history from Dadaism to Fluxus featuring, alongside Mary Bauermeister, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Hans G Helms, John Cage, Nam June Paik and Ben Patterson. Released only recently, **Mary Bauermeister – Eins plus eins ist drei** (2021, 102 min.) by **Carmen Belaschk** tells the exceptional artist's story and allows insights into her life and work – in her home, in New York, Cologne, Berlin and at the Atlantic

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ocean. Fluxus works of art by **Nam June Paik, Benjamin Patterson, Daniel Spoerri, Ben Vautier, Joe Jones**, among others, that are already on show in the Humorkirche and stem from the collection of Ute & Michael Berger, enter a dialogue with Mary Bauermeister's work and are consciously integrated into the exhibition.

A little later, on July 14th, 2022, the research and exhibition project **This is where the action is!** (July 15th until October 30th, 2022) opens at Nassauischer Kunstverein, giving a threefold insight into the virtuosity of female artists in the canon of Fluxus from its beginnings until today. The exhibition in the Humorkirche Erbenheim opens every **Friday until Sunday and on public holidays from 11 am to 6 pm** as well as on prior arrangements from June 3rd until August 7th, 2022. The entry is free of charge. The Humorkirche in Wandersmannstraße 2b, 65205 Wiesbaden, is accessible via bus line 15 (bus stop Egerstraße), a car park is also on site.

About the artist /

Mary Bauermeister, born in Frankfurt am Main in 1934, lives in Rösrath. Her work developed over time, from two-dimensional drawings and paintings to object images and installations as well as garden architecture. Thematically, her work revolves around nature, poetry and esotericism alongside music, mathematics and science while always taking current discourses into account. Her work can be found in the collections of renowned museums such as the MoMA, Whitney Museum and Guggenheim in New York, Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. In 1962, her first solo exhibition was on show in the Stedelijk Museum, to be followed by many international exhibitions. In 2020, Mary Bauermeister was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit for her long-standing artistic work as well as the art award of North Rhine-Westphalia for her outstanding artistic oeuvre in 2021. Mary Bauermeister has been friends with the Berger family for many years.

Humorkirche Erbenheim /

The church and humour are not readily associated with each other, in the Christian Middle Ages, laughing was even seen as the devil's cause. With his Humorkirche, his church of humour, Michael Berger opens a place of laughter where people can gather to laugh and be cheerful together – following his motto "Expansion of consciousness through Exhilaration of consciousness".

Humorkirche Erbenheim
Wandersmannstraße 2b, 65205 Wiesbaden
Bus line 15, bus stop Egerstraße
Car park on site

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The exhibition **Mary Bauermeister / Zuvielisation** is funded by **Kunststiftung NRW** and **Nassauische Sparkasse**.



Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is permanently institutionally supported by the **Cultural Office of the Capital City of Wiesbaden**.



Prickelnd seit 1856

A **press talk** with Mary Bauermeister and Michael Berger takes place on May 23rd, 2022, at 2 pm in Humorkirche Wiesbaden-Erbenheim. Registration for the talk via the press contact below. For further information, we are available by phone or e-mail.

Press contact Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden
+49 611 301136 / presse@kunstverein-wiesbaden.de

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Accompanying Program /

The realisation of the program accompanying the exhibition will take place according to the infection protection law in place at the time. Current information is available under <https://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de/en/home>

PRESS TALK /

With Mary Bauermeister and Michael Berger

Monday, May 23rd, 2022, 2 pm

Registration via presse@kunstverein-wiesbaden.de / 0611 301136

OPENING /

In presence of Mary Bauermeister

Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, starting at 6 pm

KIDS INSIDE /

For all / with Titus Grab or Sarah Kottenbrink

Saturday, June 25th, 2022, 11 am to 1 pm

HIER SPIELT DIE MUSIK! /

Virtuoso exhibition opening at Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

Thursday, July 14th, 2022, 6 pm

175 YEARS OF NASSAUISCHER KUNSTVEREIN /

A reason to celebrate!

Saturday, July 16th, 2022, starting at 3 pm

FROM THE SOURCE TO THE WAVE /

Special guided tour of Humorkirche Erbenheim &

Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

Sunday, July 17th, 2022, 3 pm

Meeting place: Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wilhelmstraße 15, 65185 Wiesbaden

SUNTALK in the church/

Get off the couch!

Guided tour through the exhibition

every Sunday, 12 pm

FINISSAGE /

Sunday, August 7th, 2022, 3 to 6 pm

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Press Images /

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Mary Bauermeister

Photo: Jean Noël Schramm



Mary Bauermeister

Zuvielisation

Satellite exhibition of Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden in Humorkirche Wiesbaden-Erbenheim, 2022

Photo: Christian Lauer



Mary Bauermeister

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Mary Bauermeister

Ordnungsschichten (Detail)
1962/3

Courtesy: Mary Bauermeister
Photo: Johann Camut
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Mary Bauermeister

Ordnungsschichten (Detail)
1962/3

Courtesy: Mary Bauermeister
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Mary Bauermeister

Zuvielisation, 2015

Installation view Koblenzer Mittelrhein-
Museum, 2015

Courtesy: Mary Bauermeister
Photo: Johann Camut
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Bonn, 2022



Mary Bauermeister

Zuvielisation, 2015

Installation view Koblenzer Mittelrhein-
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Courtesy: Mary Bauermeister
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