

Press Information:

# FEM/NIsm<sup>TC</sup>: БАЙХТЕ

**GROUP INTERVENTION AT CHARIM EVENTS, SCHLEIFMÜHLGASSE 1A, 1040 VIENNA**  
20. September – 5. October

Concepted and curated by **FEM/NIsm**<sup>Toshain / Ceeh</sup>

## **Press-Preview:**

Wednesday, **September 18** | 5PM

## **OPENING**

Thursday, **September 19** | 7PM – 9PM

## **FEM/NIsm<sup>TC</sup>: БАЙХТЕ will be open to the public**

Saturday, **September 21** | 11AM – 2PM

Saturday, **September 28** | 11AM – 2PM

Friday, **October 4** | 7 – 9PM + **finissage and + 100 signed exhibition Poster-publications for Free**

Saturday, **October 5** | 11AM – 2PM + **final view**

and by appointment via **Charim Galerie** Tel. +43 1 512 09 15 or via [office@femin.me](mailto:office@femin.me)

**Homepage:** [www.femin.me](http://www.femin.me)

The **FEM/NIsm**<sup>Toshain / Ceeh</sup> art project was founded by Iv Toshain and Anna Ceeh in 2012. It takes a critical stance towards feminist ideologies and defines itself as a modular perpetual motion machine, which operates both on the level of discourse and performance. At the intersection of pop-cultural semantics, art theory, activism, and contemporary art, it serves as a platform for theory and praxis and stages well-planned public operations/ interventions in the form of solo actions or cooperations with international artists. Its central strategy is the integration of male and queer positions with the aim of opening up new spaces of thought. Social reflection is thus freed from the corset of binary thinking (man – woman, power – oppression).

Drawing on their biographical background (born and raised in Bulgaria and Russia) Iv Toshain and Anna Ceeh's work includes historical references outside of the familiar Western narrative. For this project, they have invited young Austrian and international artists, whose scope of action includes current activist trends and reflects gender specific experiences. Tailored to venues and spaces, the interventions of **FEM/NIsm<sup>TC</sup>** as well as their hand-made prêt-à-porter merchandising articles show an aesthetics that draws on clear, reduced stylistic devices as well as the post-capitalist advertising methods of the spectacle. They are also informed by the concept of post-socialist pop activism and the language of the artistic-political tactics of subversive affirmation. (For further information on this project please visit: <http://www.femin.me>)

**FEM/Inism<sup>TC</sup>: БАЙХТЕ** champions the semantic potential of art “as a means of a condensed communication and device that compresses, stores, and disseminates information.” Anna Ceeh and Iv Toshain invited artists **Anetta Mona Chişa & Lucia Tkáčová** (RO/SK), **Boris Ondreička** (SK), **Carolee Schneemann** (US), **Gediminas und Nomedas Urbonas** (LT), **Hans Scheirl** (AT), **Kiwa** (EE), **Linda Bilda** (AT), **Siggi Hofer** (AT/ IT), **Slava Mogutin** (RU/ US), **VALIE EXPORT** (AT) to participate in the intervention **FEM/Inism<sup>TC</sup>: БАЙХТЕ** (the name represents both a semiotic sign and the transcription of the German word “confession” in Cyrillic script).

Its spectacular presentation will take place at the Charim Events, Schleifmühlgasse 1a in Vienna.



Photo credit **FEM/Inism<sup>TC</sup>**, 2013 © Anna Ceeh / Iv Toshain

**ANNA CEEH** (\*1974 Leningrad/ RU) and **IV TOSHAIN** (\*1980 Sofia/ BG) are both visual artists who have studied together at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (MKL Franz Graf). In the same time they are independent curators and female activists. Aside from numerous national and international exhibitions, they have launched independent and innovative art formats such as: symposia / events / festivals / independent art fair / exhibitions with an international cast in Austria and abroad (Bulgaria, Belarus, Slovakia, etc.), which they have fully executed, curated, organized, conceived, designed and graphically relayed. This cutting edge project's activities are about execution of contemporary exhibition territories and sites, new concepts, presentation formats, and a base for institutional critique activities. **FEM/Inism<sup>TC</sup>** is the first major project that they realize together as a team in an all-female cast.

**ANNA CEEH** (\*1974, RU/AT)

is a Russian-born, Vienna-based artist who has been working for almost 10 years in the international arts scene. Her body of work spans from self-portrait photography to video, electronic music and related applied research. In her most recent work, she takes a refreshing, anarchic approach to high-end inkjet printers. In working with reproductions, she subverts the meaning of the printers, the idea of photocopying and photographic reproduction. "By scanning in a subverted print and then printing it out on a 'properly' set up printer, it's a sort of 'cure' for subversion!" says English writer, Richard Noyce, of her work. She is co-founder (with Franz Pomassl) of the ZONE Club series at Vienna Secession (2008-2012) and in 2011 she got Honorary Mention Digital Musics & Sound Art, Ars Electronica 2011 for the project */SONIC/ZONES/*.

Solo and group exhibitions at Charim Galerie, Kunstbunker, Forum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Nürnberg (DE), Galeria Space, Bratislava (SK), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, NY (USA), Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, RU, Lentos Museum, Linz (AT) etc

<http://www.annaceeh.com>

**IV TOSHAIN** (\*1980, BG)

After studying at Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, Italy, the National Art Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria and graduating MA at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria in the master class of Franz Graf, she took part in numerous group and solo exhibitions in USA, Denmark, Czech Republic, Rumania, Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland etc.

Since 2011 she is co-founder, the curator and executive organizer of the **PARKFAIR** – Avantgarde Art Fair for established and emerging contemporary artists at the third level of the open air parking deck of the Stadium Center in Vienna, taking place during the Vienna Fair. In 2012 she was awarded the MIA AWARD 2012 for outstanding achievements of women with international backgrounds living and working in Austria in the category Art and Culture.

Her art combines architecture of imaginary and emotional spaces, sculpture, and painting. It operates through "functional visual communication", which refers to elementary structures, systems and universal symbols. At first sight, this may involve representational functions, but representation is not its purpose. As Deleuze and Guattari would say, art is a bloc of sensations, waiting to be reactivated by a spectator or participant. Art, then, can be understood as the name for a function: a form of magic or aesthetics, a function of transformation, experience, and communication.

## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

**ANETTA MONA CHIȘA & LUCIA TKÁČOVÁ** (RO / SK) Both are artists, curators, have been working together since 2000. They explore gender relations as well as their role of Eastern European artists in a Western-dominated art world. Their projects are often based on contextual interpretation of art from Eastern Europe and its stereotypical mode of representation, derived from a grid of geopolitical relations. Playing with the concept of access to different forms of power, the artists refer to the typical situation in post-communist New Europe, while, on the other hand, they are deconstructing society's icons and habits, revealing their basic economic fundamentals and functioning. With videos, installations, textual works, and performances they refract consumer expectations and trigger processes of reflection. <http://www.chitka.info/>

**BORIS ONDREIČKA** (\*1969, SK) He is an artist, singer, author, curator. "They call me subject, inhabitant, citizen and Slovak. They call me foriegnner, alien, European but mostly

'Scheissliche Ostblocker', eliminated, disqualified, excluded, expelled, fake Messiah, hypocrite, pharisee, they call me "etc.", "e.g." and "next". They call me (gentle)man / male, phalocrat or uncle, cousin, blackmailer, brother and brother-in-law, insolvent debtor = son, son-in-law and son of a bitch." (B. Ondreicka "Scheissliche Ostblocker, PrePhase 2001-02-04 " courtesy Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary.

**CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN** (\*1939, US) Carolee Schneemann, multidisciplinary artist. Transformed the definition of art, especially discourse on the body, sexuality, and gender. The history of her work is characterized by research into archaic visual traditions, pleasure wrested from suppressive taboos, the body of the artist in dynamic relationship with the social body. Schneemann acknowledges that she is often labeled as a feminist icon and that she is an influential figure to female artists, but she also notes that she reaches out to male artists as well.

<http://www.caroleeschneemann.com>

**HANS SCHEIRL** (\*1956, AT)

Coming from performance, Scheirl started making experimental music in 1978 and films in 1979. After 20 years of filmmaking he began to paint in 1995. He lived in London for 16 years, where he graduated on an M.A. course at Central Saint Martins School of Art&Design in 2003. Hans is currently living in Vienna where he is professor for „Contextual Painting“ at the Akademie of Fine Arts.

<http://hansscheirl.jimdo.com>

**KIWA** (\*1975, EE)

KIWA is a multichannel meta-artist, lecturer, curator, music producer. He is interested in quote, pastiche, games of language and identity, (post)psychoanalysis and schizoanalysis were self-explanatory as artistic methods; an important place is also taken up by such keywords as conceptuality, simulacrum and absurd. The art of Kiwanoid is a labyrinth, or rather a labyrinth in a labyrinth. Last year he also finished his first full-length documentary movie "Wariazone" (with anthropologist Terje Toomistu) about Indonesian transgender phenomenon. (text KIWA)

[www.kiwanoid.com](http://www.kiwanoid.com)

**LINDA BILDA** (\*1963, AT)

She is an artist and inventor, born in Vienna, apprenticeship as a bookseller, studies stage design at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria. Former Co -Editor of Art Fan and the political Art magazine "Die weiße Blatt". As an inventor she has patented 2 technologies for glass production Mother of 2 sons Felix and Luis. Her artwork focuses on Comics, sculptural work and recently on murals. The Salzburg Kunstverein published her comic book „Keep it real“ with texts and statements for terms like power, state monopoly, emancipatory image production, etc. With a preview of Sabeth Buchmann. In 2012 she was awarded with the outstanding artist award from the Ministry of Culture.

<http://www.thegoldenworld.com/>

**NOMEDA & GEDIMINAS URBONAS** (\*1968 / 1966, LT)

Nomeda & Gediminas Urbonas have established an international reputation for socially interactive and interdisciplinary practice exploring the conflicts and contradictions posed by the economic, social, and political conditions in the former Soviet countries. They use art platform to render public spaces for interaction and engagement of the social groups, evoking local communities and encouraging their cultural and political imagination. Urbonas's work frequently involves collective activities such as workshops, lectures, debates, TV programs, Internet chat-rooms and public protests that stand at the intersection of art, technology and social criticism. Urbonas are the cofounders of JUTEMPUS interdisciplinary art program, VILMA (Vilnius Interdisciplinary Lab for Media Art), and VOICE, a net based



publication on media culture. Their works were exhibited at the San Paulo, Berlin, Moscow, Lyon and Gwangju and Venice Biennales, Manifesta and Documenta exhibitions – among numerous other international shows, including a solo show at MACBA in Barcelona. They have been awarded a number of high level grants and residency awards, including the Lithuanian National Prize (2007); a fellowship at the Montalvo Arts Center in California (2007/08); a Prize for the Best International Artist at the Gwangju Biennale (2006) and the Honourable Mention for the national pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2007). Gediminas Urbonas is an Associate Professor in the Art, Culture and Technology Program at MIT.

Nomeda Urbonas is PhD researcher at Norwegian University for Science and Technology. Nomeda & Gediminas Urbonas lives and works in Cambridge, MA, USA and Vilnius, Lithuania.

<http://www.nugu.lt>

#### **SIGGI HOFER** (\*1970, IT/ AT)

Siggi Hofer is an artist specializing in drawing, painting and performance, and poetry. He creates objects, drawings, letter paintings, videos, and installations. In his art, which comprises a collection of various themes and materials, he often returns to his home region of Tyrol and childhood memories. Among the motives of his art are relationships between and analysis of different social and political processes, also in historical contexts. He poses questions about the rise and reconstruction of identity and individuality. His work refers to the aesthetics of rebellion and resistance of the last few decades while involving the audience in model situations. He was a Lector at the Technical University (*Art as an architectural practice*), Vienna, Lector at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna as well as Visiting professor at the Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna, (Photography).

<http://siggihofer.com/>

#### **SLAVA MOGUTIN** (\*1974 RU / US)

He is a New York-based Russian-American artist and writer, exiled from Russia for his outspoken writings and activism. Mogutin's work is informed by his bicultural literary and dissident background, as well as his extensive travels around the world, encompassing the themes of urban youth subcultures and adolescent sexuality; the clash of social norms and individual desires; transgressive, radical expressions of masculinity and gender crossover; cultural alienation and political discontent; the tension between attachment and loneliness, violence and love. (Text S. Mogutin)

<http://slavamogutin.com/>

#### **VALIE EXPORT** (\*1940, AT)

She is a Prof. Dr. h.c.media and performance artist, filmmaker born in Linz, lives and works in Vienna. VALIE EXPORT's artistic work comprises: video environments, digital photography, installation, body performances, feature films, experimental films, documentaries, Expanded Cinema, conceptual photography, body-material interactions, Persona Performances, laser installations, objects, sculptures, texts on contemporary art history and feminism. VALIE EXPORT is one of the most important pioneers on conceptual media art, performance and film. VALIE EXPORT takes part at the documenta 12 2007, and documenta 6, 1977, in Kassel. Her works are in international collections like Centro Pompidou, Paris, Tate Modern, London, Reine Sophia, Madrid, MOMA, New York, MOCA, Los Angeles ect.

<http://www.valieexport.at>

With the kind support of the Gesellschaft der Freunde der Akademie der bildenden Kunst.

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