

SHIRANA SHAHBAZI

June 8 - July 26, 2019

Book launch: Sunday, June 9, 3-4pm

A new group of works by Shirana Shahbazi (*1979 Tehran, Iran; lives and works in Zurich) will be presented in the gallery's project space. A number of mid-sized format works that were created in the context of the simultaneously issued photo book and which draw upon the artist's three-month stay in India are on show. The motifs collected on the journey are fragmentarily dissolved from their actual narrative and are subjected to a very intimate creative process on the basis of her artistic repertoire. It is experimentation with the original subject of the picture and its photographic quality conceptually mixed with classical lithographic printing techniques. As in previous series such as *Tehran North* from 2015, Shahbazi is interested in how a journey and the encounters experienced can be perceived photographically without them being externally determined by the visual power of the culturally charged and often very overwhelming colourfulness of the locations. It is the making of collages without physical intervention: the snapshots, which often show anonymous individual people in architectonic space or in a landscape, are taken apart and reshaped, their colour taken out of them or reconfigured like a reset. Carefully selected colour areas of luminous intensity are layered on top of each other and dissolve or densify. These areas, which sometimes protrude far beyond the edges of the actual scene, flow together with selected openings and break open the composition like a prism. The photo book that accompanies the exhibition, produced in cooperation with Manuel Krebs, and which as in past projects plays a very central role in the artist's research, was not least responsible for pointing the way for this method. The publication and the artist's stay in India was made possible with the support of Pro Helvetia. The book will be published at Sternberg Press and is available at the gallery.

Shahbazi's works are represented in the collections of important institutions all over the world such as the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Tate Modern, London; the National Museum of Photography, Copenhagen; the Sprengel Museum, Hanover and the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich. Important recent solo exhibitions include at Kunsthaus Hamburg (2018); Istituto Svizzero, Milan (2018); Museum Fotogalleriet, Oslo (2017); KINDL, Berlin (2017); Camera Austria, Graz (2016) and Kunsthalle, Bern (2014). Currently Shahbazi's works are on show in the Niko Pirosmani group exhibition curated by Bice Curiger at the Fondation Vincent Van Gogh (until 30 June). Shahbazi has been known for her art in public space since 2005: in 2015 she participated in the renovation project of the ZKB (Zurich Cantonal Bank) and in 2017 designed the walls of the new Axel Springer office, both in Zurich.

Shahbazi has also been awarded the Prix Meret Oppenheim 2019, which will be presented on 10 June as part of the Swiss Awards.

BEATRIZ GONZÁLEZ

June 8 - July 26, 2019

„Si no hay duelo, no habrá paz“ (If there is no pain, there is no peace)
B. González

The installation *Zócalo del Duelo* (Foundation of Pain) by the Columbian artist Beatriz González (*1938 Bucaramanga, Columbia; lives and works in Bogotá) will be on show in the foyer of the gallery. Like a metre-high frieze several posters (typographic print on paper) with two repeating motifs will line the lower wall of the vestibule. At the same time these posters will be found at various locations in the city. The flatly applied, reduced colouring and the graphically strong, simplified contour lines lend the subject, as so often in González's work, an appearance of deceptive banality. The concept of posters is reminiscent of her wall papers with which the artist has covered whole walls of institutions, such as at documenta 14 in Kassel. Such works take up key moments in the politically turbulent history of Columbia and, on the basis of the reproducible medium, make them into iconic symbols in the minds of those who see them. However, it is also a critical parody such as in her conceptually very similar work *Zócalo de la Comedia* (Baseboard of Comedy) from 1983, which showed ex-president Julio César Turbay awarding a medal to another person in caricatured solemnity. In the 1980s this poster was then found on the streets of cities such as Berlin and Bogotá. *Zócalo del Duelo*, refers to an event from 2015 as a peace agreement was signed which was intended to put an end to the armed conflict in the country that had lasted for more than fifty years. The two portraits of women moved by grief can thus be read as allegories of mourning in the face of the violence in the country and perhaps can also be seen as a homage to the grief that has already been overcome that the people had to go through in order finally to achieve peace.

The installation in the gallery is accompanied by a short video documenting the posters being hung in Bogotá und Zurich. The two motifs of the installation are also available as a framed diptych in a limited edition. The installation of the posters in Zurich was made possible with the support of "Kunst im öffentlichen Raum".

Beatriz González's works are exhibited at leading institutions worldwide. Currently the Pérez Art Museum (PAMM) in Miami is showing a large-scale retrospective which will then transfer to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH). A solo exhibition curated by María Inés Rodríguez was presented during 2017 - 2018 at CAPC Bordeaux, Museo de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid and Kunst-Werke, Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin. In 2017 three of the artist's works were on show at documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel. Significant group exhibitions include *Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960-1980* at MoMA, New York and *The World Goes Pop*, at Tate Modern, London (both 2015). González's works are represented in the collections of the following institutions: Museo de Arte Moderno, Bogotá; Museo de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; MFAH Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museo Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá; Tate Modern, London, to name but a few.

For further information please contact Mr. Fabio Pink: fabio@peterkilchmann.com