

Media release
Zurich, 5 February 2024

Programme accompanying the new Bührle Collection exhibition begins

On 3 November 2023, the Kunsthaus Zürich inaugurated a new exhibition entitled 'A Future for the Past. The Bührle Collection: Art, Context, War and Conflict'. The second phase of this project starts with a performance by Alexis Blake on 22, 24 and 25 February.

A series of events to accompany the new exhibition of the Bührle Collection will take place in February, April and May. They include artists engaging with the collection along with various talk and discussion formats. The aim is to raise public awareness of challenging historical and present-day contexts beyond the exhibition itself, while enabling a wider range of people to contribute to the ongoing debate. The programme begins with the artist Alexis Blake.

ALEXIS BLAKE. PERFORMANCE: 'ROCK TO JOLT [] STAGGER TO ASH'

'rock to jolt [] stagger to ash' by Alexis Blake is an emancipatory quest into the liberation of uncensored and uncontrolled emotions oppressed within a patriarchal culture. By linking the suppression of mourning to the outlawing of the lament in Ancient Greece as a means to silence women's voices, Blake investigates Western social hierarchies, particularly those marginalized by violence and trauma. As with her previous works, the artist combines research with a responsive choreography that result in a collaborative embodiment of its subject matter. The performance won her the Prix de Rome – the oldest award for visual artists under the age of 40 in the Netherlands, – and premiered at the Stedelijk Museum in 2021.

Alexis Blake works across visual arts, performance and dance, blending choreography, sound, video, smell and sculpture into multi-sensory experiences. At the Kunsthaus Zürich, she will stage an iteration of her performance adapted to the Walter Haefner Foyer of the Chipperfield building, in collaboration with Krist Gruijthuijsen. Curator and art critic Krist Gruijthuijsen has been director of the KW Institute for Contemporary Art since 2016 (and remains in that role until June 2024). He was artistic director of the Grazer Kunstverein from 2012 to 2016, and a co-founder of the Kunstverein in Amsterdam.

The Alexis Blake performance takes place on 22, 24 and 25 February at 5 p.m. and lasts approx. 45 minutes. Admission is free; registration is not required. Details at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/programm.

FURTHER PROGRAMME DETAILS ONLINE BY THE END OF MARCH

The accompanying programme which begins with the Alexis Blake performances runs until May 2024. It is the second phase in the new presentation of the Bührle Collection. Additional formats are planned for 4, 18 and 25 April as well as 2 May 2024. Details will be published on the Kunsthhaus website by the end of March.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED TODAY. A LOOK AHEAD TO PHASE 3

Today a website providing in-depth information about the exhibition has been launched. <https://buehrle.kunsthhaus.ch> is the perfect way to prepare for a visit or reflect on it afterwards.

The exhibition will lead into a third phase responding to the final report by Raphael Gross. Gross – a historian and President of the Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Museum – was appointed by the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft in May 2023 to evaluate the research carried out to date into the provenance of the Bührle Collection. He has put together his own team to conduct the review and is now overseeing its work. Its final report is expected to be published at the end of June 2024. After a period of reflection and interpretation, the Kunsthhaus will incorporate new findings into the current presentation 'A Future for the Past. The Bührle Collection: Art, Context, War and Conflict'.

CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Björn Quellenberg, Head of Communications & Marketing, bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthhaus.ch, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 11