

galeria

nara roesler

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Galeria Nara Roesler | New York presents solo show by Brazilian artist Berna Reale

While You Laugh is centered on Bi, a non-binary character created by Reale

opening apr 24 | exhibition apr 25 – jun 15, 2019



Berna Reale, *I Kneel and You Pray (Eu ajoelho e você reza)*, 2019. Print on cotton paper, methacrylate. 39.4 x 59.1 in / 100 x 150 cm.
Photo © Berna Reale. Courtesy of the artist and Galeria Nara Roesler.

about the exhibition

Galeria Nara Roesler | New York is pleased to present *While you laugh/Enquanto você ri*, an exhibition of recent photographs and videos by Berna Reale. Centered on Bi, a non-binary character she created, the exhibition is the artist's second with the Gallery as well as her New York debut.

In her performances and installations, Berna Reale engages either her own body or those of willing participants to reflect on the contemporary sociopolitical moment. Reale is particularly interested in the violence that permeates Brazil and seeks to urge viewers to confront this in the public sphere. In one of her earliest works, the intervention *Cerne* [core] of 2005, photographs of human organs taken in a morgue were strategically installed in the meat market of the Ver-o-Peso in Belém, a traditional market bustling with tourists and local shoppers. This experience led the artist to enroll in a police academy to train as a forensics expert, and since 2010, she has maintained an alternate career working at the Renato Chaves Center of Forensic Sciences in Belém. In the last decade her production has been mainly focused on performances denouncing social injustice. These works are documented in photographs and videos based on recordings of her actions. For her 2014 performance *Rosa púrpura* [purple pink], Reale hired a group of women to parade around her hometown in schoolgirl outfits and with exaggerated lip ornaments to evoke inflatable sex dolls. She filmed the event, documented the women's experiences online, and circulated images on fliers to engender a conversation around the fetishization of and violence enacted against women.

Reale's latest creation is Bi, a character she portrays in a head-to-toe pink bodysuit with enlarged foam breasts and testicles. Bi's dissident body appears in photographs and Brazilian funk music videos posted to youtube and on Bi's own Instagram account. Exhibition curator Claudia Calirman writes: "Through her carefully constructed non-binary character Bi, Reale challenges prejudice and discrimination. Addressing underprivileged and marginalized victims of the violence permeated in daily life, be it physical or psychological, Bi depicts society's systematic exclusion of the already excluded. Reale's work is forceful, raw, and blunt, as she exposes in playful but radical ways diverse forms of the injustices inflicted by savage capitalism, police brutality, militias, and hate crimes." In *Your Molds Don't Fit Me (Seus moldes não me servem)*, Calirman continues, "Bi sits on a golden chair surrounded by empty hangers, alluding to the ubiquitous obsession with appearance and consumerism within capitalist structures, a fixation that is constantly fulfilled by the silent exploitation of invisible cheap labor. In another photo, Bi exercises with dumbbells imprinted with images of the globe, referencing the burdensome efforts required to fit into normative society."

opening

april 24, 2019 | 6 – 8pm

exhibition

april 25 – june 15, 2019

tue–sat, 10am–6pm

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about the artist

Berna Reale was born in Belém do Pará/PA, Brazil, 1965, where she lives and works. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: *Brazil. Knife in the Flesh*, at Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea Milano (PAC-Milano), Milan, Italy (2018), in which she presented *Camuflagem* (2018), her first performance held outside her birth city; *Lecture/Performance & Screenings: Berna Reale*, at Miami Dade College Museum of Art + Design (MDC MOAD), Miami/FL, USA (2017); *Video Art in Latin America*, at LAXART, West Hollywood/LA, USA, part of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA (2017); and *Vão*, a solo at Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB), São Paulo/SP, Brazil (2017). In 2015 her work was included in *É tanta coisa que nem cabe aqui* [So much that it doesn't fit here] at the Brazilian Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale. That same year she also

participated in the 34th Panorama da Arte Brasileira, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM-SP), São Paulo/SP, Brazil. Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP), São Paulo/SP, Brazil; the Museu de Arte de Belém, Belém/PA, Brazil; and the Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro/RJ, Brazil.

about galeria nara roesler

Galeria Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, representing seminal Brazilian and international artists who emerged in the 1950s as well as preeminent mid-career and emerging artists who dialogue with the currents put forth by these historical figures. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial practice while upholding the utmost quality in art production. This has actively been put into practice through a select and rigorous exhibitions program created in close collaboration with its artists; the implementation and fostering of the Roesler Hotel program, a platform for curatorial projects; and continued support to artists beyond the gallery space, working with institutions and curators in offsite shows. In 2012, the gallery doubled its São Paulo exhibition space, in 2014 it expanded to Rio, and in 2015 it opened in New York City, continuing its mission to provide the best platform for its artists to show their work.

press

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