

The Neutral
12.09. - 14.10.2023

Georg Kargl Fine Arts
curated by Cathrin Mayer

Artists: Renée Green, Sharon Hayes, Christian Philipp Müller, Julia Scher, Marina Xenofontos, Bruno Zhu

Comizi d' Amore

When I received the generous invitation from Inés Lombardi to organize an exhibition as part of this year's Curated by Festival with the challenging theme of The Neutral, I immediately knew that I wanted to immerse myself in the gallery's dense and expansive history and collection. This impulse possibly corresponded to my own past as well. Growing up on the same street as the gallery, I decided at some point as a teenager that I wanted to work with art. Today, I think that perhaps without the galleries on Schleifmühlgasse, I would not have made this decision.

The first ideas for the exhibition came from the works of Renée Green, Julia Scher, and Christian Philipp Müller. While Renée Green and Christian Philipp Müller exhibited in 1993 at the gallery Metropol, which was then run by Georg Kargl and Christian Meyer, Julia Scher's exhibition took place in 2000 under the current name and address of the gallery. The aesthetic forms, through which this history is revisited in the show, are not led by ideas around the archive or the aim of deploying an expertise on the time and frame within which each of the exhibitions were made. Comizi d'Amore presents, however, a very small and delicate selection of artworks, that cites the contexts of these past exhibitions, placing them within and in relation to the present framework of the exhibition and current artistic discourses, allowing for poetic encounters with works by Sharon Hayes, Marina Xenofontos, and Bruno Zhu.

curated by

To me, all of the artists are sharing an interest in surfacing and interrogating the power of institutions that are steering our private and public lives. The inspiration for the title came from the video work *Ricerche:one* (2019) by Sharon Hayes which belongs to a five-part series that steps off Pier Paolo Pasolini's documentary film *Comizi d'Amore* (1964) in which he travels Italy and interviews people in public places about sex, marriage, and gender roles.