

“ladies – brut”

Opening: Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 7 pm

Duration: September 17 until November 8, 2020

Some claim that women artists of art brut still slumber in secret. Curator Irina Katnik impressively proves that this is not the case with her upcoming exhibition “ladies – brut” at the *gallery gugging*. Here, the art brut ladies are shown hand in hand and at eye level with their male colleagues and works that have never been exhibited before are presented.

The year 2020 is all about art brut – whether it be international fairs like the Armory Show/NY, auction houses or renowned galleries and museums like Blum & Poe/LA, David Zwirner/NY or MoMA/NY. The term is increasingly becoming the focus of a broad public and at the same time interest in women’s art is growing. Last year, for example, the Kunstforum/Vienna devoted itself to a show of works by women artists of art brut.

Irina Katnik got the idea for the exhibition “ladies – brut” during an art fair in New York, when she started a conversation with her colleague Gerti Hacker about the significance of female art brut that asked her about the exhibition “mahn masculines?”. “In this exhibition in 2010, the *gallery gugging* dedicated itself to the depiction of the male and the masculine in art brut,” explains Irina Katnik and continues: “This year, exactly ten years later with “ladies – brut”, I would like to deliberately focus on the depiction of women and the works of female artists.”

With “ladies – brut”, the *gallery gugging* presents works by the *Gugging Artists* and their international colleagues that have never been shown before. An absolute highlight and paradox to the exhibition title is the work *Bouquet féérique 1er août* by the Swiss artist Aloïse Corbaz, which shows a statesman in blue uniform and red sash. “The artist is one of the most famous female art brut artists in the world and we are very pleased to be able to show her in our gallery for the first time,” says Irina Katnik. With Ida

Buchmann and her canvas *Lovers in the box*, which is an absolute rarity in the artist's oeuvre not only because of its size, another renowned Swiss master in her field has been won for this exhibition. Furthermore, two elaborately embroidered floral works with rarity value by Czech artist Anna Zemánková will be presented.

In addition, works by Basel Al-Bazzaz will be on display, who grows up small ornaments on fine, detailed works on paper and in this way allows his oriental origins to flow into the art. The counterpart are the delicate, meticulous works by Christa Wiener, who has been visiting the *open studio* in Gugging since 2017 and draws her inspiration from nature. Works by Laila Bachtiar, the only living female *Gugging Artist*, will be presented along with Karoline Rosskopf and Barbara Demlczuk, who are among the few female artists of the era of Leo Navratil, the former director of the *House of Artists* in Gugging. Rarities of the older generation of *Gugging Artists* by Johann Korec, Oswald Tschirtner and August Walla are also not to be missed. The new generation is represented, among others, by Johann Garber with his fine ink portraits and Karl Vondal with his pastel, erotic motifs of naked women. You can also look forward to works by the American artist Helen Rae, who finds her inspiration in fashion magazines, the Italian artist Adria Sartore, who brings young women to wood in the old-masterly manner and the Viennese sculptor Julia Hanzl, who skillfully makes one of her central motifs – sexuality – visible in her ceramic works.

In her first exhibition, Irina Katnik has created an impressive cross-section of the oeuvre of female art brut artists. A feeling and awareness of the works are conveyed and the opportunity is offered to present their talent in public and not in silence. However, "ladies – brut" doesn't engage in a battle of the sexes between men and women, but rather makes the artists' works shine at eye level and places them in direct discourse with one another. This unifying element can be felt in the exhibition, to which we would like to cordially invite you.

galerie gugging nina katschnig

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Opening hours: Mon – Fri 10 am - 6 pm

and kindly by appointment

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