

Gallery Anita Beckers

presents

KörperSPRACHE

Annegret Soltau

Exhibition duration

February 3rd - March 20th, 2021

Annegret Soltau is a pioneer of feminist art and body art. Since the 1970s, the artist has been reflecting on states of her own mental and physical being. Her work usually begins with a performance, which she records on video and in photography. The aim is to sound out states of consciousness and unconsciousness in real life. In order to achieve this, she often manipulates the produced material with various techniques, like sewing, etching and others. Her own body is always at the centre of her artistic experimental arrangements. In individual work complexes, family members are also integrated.

With a solo exhibition on the occasion of her 75th birthday, we provide an insight into various work phases of Annegret Soltau's extensive oeuvre. With a thread installation, reminiscent of a spider's web and specifically created for our gallery space, the artist once again links to her first performative works from 1975/76 and to the important series of works SELF.

Through an intensive examination of her archive, coherent sets of works were uncovered that had never been exhibited before. Their existence represents a significant review with regard to the transformation of a *state of being* into an *artistic materiality*.

After studying painting and graphics with Hans Thiemann, Kurt Kranz, David Hockney and Rudolf Hausner in Hamburg and Vienna, the artist moved to Darmstadt, where she has lived ever since. She was a fellow at the Villa Massimo in Rome and the Stiftung Kunstfonds in Bonn. She has also been awarded the Maria Sibylla Merian Prize of the State of Hesse, the Wilhelm Loth Prize of the City of Darmstadt, the Marielies Hess Art Prize and the Johann Heinrich Merck Award. Works in important collections (selection): Centre Pompidou, Paris; Getty Museum, Los Angeles; International Center of Photography (ICP), New York; der Verbund Collection, Wien; Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; Kunsthalle Bremen; Collection of the City of Darmstadt; DZ-Bank Collection, Frankfurt; Collection of Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt.