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Westfälischer Kunstverein

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Press Release, 22 September 2026

Sanna Helena Berger
Œuvre (working title)
17.10.2026 – 17.1.2027

Press Tour:
Thu, 15 October, 11 am (or by appointment)

Opening:
Fri, 16 October, 6 pm

Performance:
Fri, 16 October, 7:30 pm
Sanna Helena Berger, *Finale. Langsam, schwer.*
featuring Angelina Petrović

Œuvre (working title) is Sanna Helena Berger's first institutional solo exhibition in which she opposes the art historical format of a 'retrospective' as the sealing of an artist's life. Against tradition, Berger argues that looking back at a body of work only at the end eliminates artists' agency for midway meaning-production. This interpretation of an archival gesture looks both backwards and forwards.

Berger lets the usually temporary placeholder "working title" remain as an eponymous echo of her philosophy; a life's work is a non-linear process. The exhibition becomes a site which emphasizes the prefix re- as a deictic method, letting both finished and abandoned works point towards new and revised interpretations of what has already been. In this critical turn, Berger attempts to re-member, re-visit, re-order and re-assemble works with a reflexive critical gaze, letting re-contextualization become a formal method that informs the curatorial gestures of the exhibition.

Alongside these methods, Berger continues to conceptually work with her theory of the *Unreadymade*, a foundational concept of her practice, alongside found objects and the presence of lack. A major work in the exhibition subverts the notion that text is but an accompaniment to material works, instead Berger lets text exist as art in its own right, taking on a central position.

The three-month exhibition duration becomes a temporal window open to the possibility of 're-situations'. *Œuvre (working title)* will embody a shifting form(lessness), *Formlosigkeit*, set in flux via interventions, acts of addition and removal, and re-placement and replacement, thus re-orienting time towards process instead of results.

Divided into three acts, movements, stages, Berger will re-configure the exhibition after the opening on 16 October during two further periods: 13 to 15 November and 11 to 13 December. By conducting these changes during opening hours, the artist renders the process transparent, emphasizing unfinishedness as a form in its own right.

Reflecting the artist's emphasis on dialogue, exchange and relationships, the exhibition and its public programme invite many friends and fellow artists, writers and critics to interpret, revise, critique and engage with Berger's work and the topics at hand.

Over the course of the exhibition Berger invites contributions and interventions by Lotta Thießen, Jenna Sutela, Lian Rangkuty, Luzie Meyer, Jackie Grassmann, Olga Hohmann, Adrienne Herr, Cecilie Norgaard, Phung-Tien Phan, Asta Lynge, Miriam Stoney, Rosa Aiello, Angelina Petrović and Vera Lutz.

The exhibition marks the third and final project of the Kunstverein's year long research, exhibition and discourse programme *The Puzzle's Pulled Apart*.

Curator: Theresa Roessler
Assistant Curator: Vivien Kämpf

Publication

Echoing the formal suggestions of *Œuvre (working title)*, an accompanying publication extends this deictic method. Berger will assemble an archive, using a modular structure to continually point back, as well as towards the formal ideas and evolving gestures of the exhibition, alongside private and personal notes in the margin.

Published by Berlin-based Bierke Verlag in 2027, it will feature contributions by several of the artist's contributing to the exhibition itself.

Biography

Sanna Helena Berger (b. 1983, Malmö, SE, living and working in Berlin, DE) is an artist and writer. Berger works with site- and situation-specific installations informed and influenced by theory, philosophy and analysis. Her work is never independent of her writing which she sees as art in its own right; material and meaning lands on par. Her installations often consist of found objects, lack as a formal position and *Unreadymades,* an ongoing theory where she grants agency to ordinary objects to act against their mass produced commonplace status.

Berger sets out to show the difference actualised by an object's lived-in condition – repeating material does not repeat meaning. Her auto-didactic position manifests as a reflexive discipline – showing process is as important as showing result. Her writing style ascribes to a form(lessness), *Formlosigkeit*, where her auto-biography – life, is mixed with theory and philosophy, utilising language both as method and topic. Her voice, as well as her work, oscillates between the phenomenological and observed, leaving a self unpolished; openly inadequate, embracing lack, showing dilemma, working against terminal meaning. *Unfinishedness* is legitimised as a final form instead of a consequence of that which is not achieved.

Berger has presented solo exhibitions and performances/readings at Shahin Zarinbal, Berlin, DE; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT; Matteo Cantarella, Copenhagen, DK; Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, DE; Antics, Stockholm, SE; Centralbanken, Oslo, NO; Philipp Zollinger, Zurich, CH; Texte zur Kunst, Berlin, DE; Kaiserwache, Freiburg, DE; haubrok foundation, Berlin, DE; Galerija Miroslav Kraljević, Zagreb, HR; Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Stockholm, SE; Cittipunkt, Berlin, DE; Den Frie, Copenhagen, DK; Kunsthalle Bremerhaven, Bremerhaven, DE among others.

Selected duo and group exhibitions: Simian, Copenhagen, DK; Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel, CH; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT; Halle für Kunst, Lueneburg, DE; Rinde am Rhein, Duesseldorf, DE; Baerum Konsthall, Oslo, NO; WAF Galerie, Vienna, AT; Kunstverein Kärnten, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, AT.

Her essays *TIME* and *LACK* were recently published by Tausend Editionen and several of her other texts have been published in literary journals and publications. Berger teaches at Weißensee Academy of Art in Berlin, DE.

Programme

Fri, 16 October, 6 pm
Opening with an Introduction by Theresa Roessler

Fri, 16 October, 7:30 pm
Performance *Finale. Langsam, schwer.* by Sanna Helena Berger
featuring Angelina Petrović (Western Concert Flute)

Fri, 13 to Sun, 15 November
Re-installation (Act II)
During opening hours, the artist will be present

Wed, 18 November, 6 pm
Curator's Tour

Sat, 21 November, 2–5 pm
Children's workshop (ages 8–12)
by Sophie Isabel Urban (Registration required)

Thu, 26 November, 6 pm
Through the eyes of… Ursula Frohne

Sat, 5 December, 2 pm
guesting [ˈgɛstɪŋ] no. 6

Fri, 11 to Sun, 13 December
Re-installation (Act III)
During opening hours, the artist will be present

Wed, 13 January, 6 pm
Münster Lecture by Sanna Helena Berger
University of Fine Arts Münster (in English)

Sat, 16 January, 4 pm
Cold Cuts, a tour guide performance
by Olga Hohmann (in English and German)

Holiday Opening Hours

24.12.2026 – 1.1.2027 closed

Press Images

Press images are available for download at the following link:
https://t1p.de/hfh1i

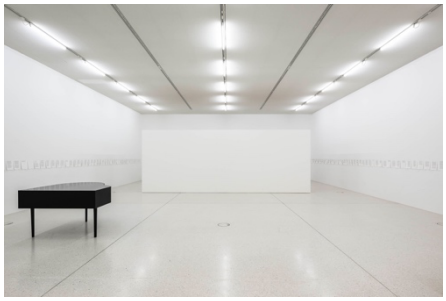
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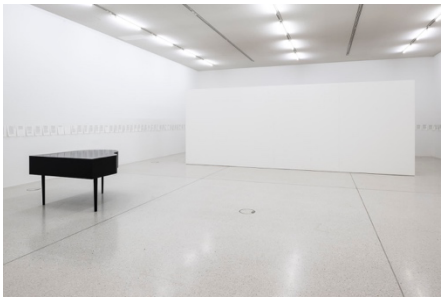
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Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



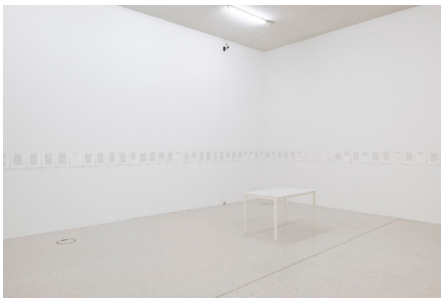
Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Du allein weisst was es bedeutet,* 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Neither, nor*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Neither, nor*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



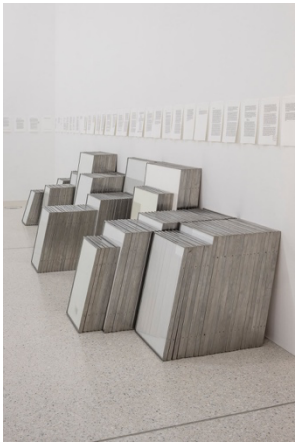
Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Exhibition text (Agitolalia)*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



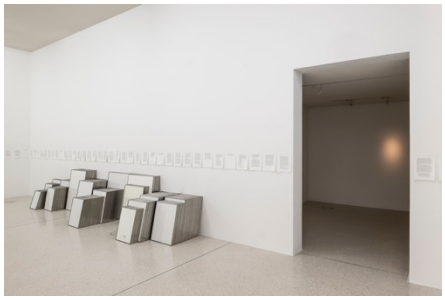
Sanna Helena Berger, *Resisting full articulation,* 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



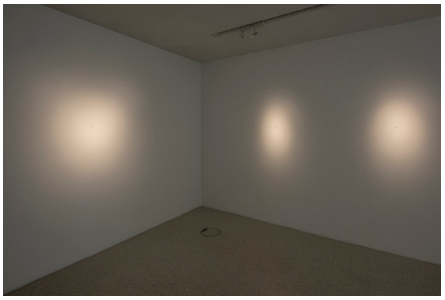
Sanna Helena Berger, *Resisting full articulation,* 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



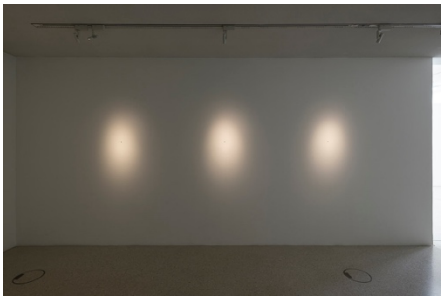
Sanna Helena Berger, *Resisting full articulation,* 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Œuvre (working title)*, 2026, Installation view, Westfälischer Kunstverein
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *The whole series minus one*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *The whole series minus one*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *The whole series minus one*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *The whole series minus one*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Mellanrum*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Mellanrum*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Tulip, Synecdoche*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



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Sanna Helena Berger, *Tulip, Synecdoche*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Exhibition text (Agitolalia)*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Du allein weisst was es bedeutet*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Unni, 2019 - 2026*, 2026, *Reducera erfarenthet till enkelhet*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Reducera erfarenthet till enkelhet*, 2026
Photo: Thorsten Arendt



Sanna Helena Berger, *Reducera erfarenthet till enkelhet*, 2026
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