

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press release

ANTHEA HAMILTON

The New Life

September 14 – November 4, 2018

Press conference: Thursday, September 13, 2018, 10 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, September 13, 2018, 7 p.m.

*I can't resist to pick one ...
I don't know which one to pick ...
that's why I'm wearing my butterflies.
... and I don't know which one to pick ...
That's why I'm wearing my butterfly dress
that's why I like it to be tight and clean.*

Excerpt from Anthea Hamilton's artist book

Anthea Hamilton's interdisciplinary interest in performance is evident in her sculptural assemblages and installations whose tableau-like quality makes them reminiscent of stage sceneries or film sets, and which she has referred to as 'performative spaces'. Her sculptures, idiosyncratic constructions precariously balanced between emergence and collapse, function like props for stories that remain to be told.

Hamilton's work is rooted in wide-ranging research, on the one hand, whether she explores strands in cultural history such as the roots of 1970s disco, art-historical references like Art Nouveau, radical Italian design or Japanese kabuki theatre, documentary photography or lichen. Each subject is studied closely and used as a lens through which to understand the world. She is equally interested in the qualities of a space, which she responds to with site-specific installations, and dedicates great attention to both the making and presentation of meticulously crafted objects. When she creates physical, larger than life realisations of images that she has collected – of a drawing by Robert Crumb, for example, or of a model for a door by Italian designer and architect Gaetano Pesce – she addresses the issue of how we perceive the world around us, both in terms of visual language and space, as well as in terms of the spectacle.

For her first solo exhibition in Austria, in Secession's iconic gallery space, Turner Prize nominee (2016) Anthea Hamilton has developed an immersive site-specific installation. The artist has occupied the space by covering it with an all-over pattern, namely a Hamilton tartan. The tartan's squares echo a strong element of the space's design itself – the square grid of the glass ceiling, and this also has a striking effect on how the space is experienced. She has turned the space into her own, using this environment to present a number of individual sculptures: A group of shiny black mannequins (*Vienna Chefs*,

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

2012/2018) point to the artist's interest in fashion, as the tartan does, quite obviously. But the works are just as much about transformation and nature, which is evident in enormous butterfly objects (*Peacock*, *Monarch*, and *Cloak Moth*, all 2018) that are loosely placed within the tartan's dominant grid, in a motif printed on a kimono, or by the use of organic materials and vegetables.

Asked about her sources of inspiration, Hamilton has frequently mentioned the French writer Antonin Artaud and his idea of a "physical knowledge of images." It is this bodily response to an idea or an image that she wants us to experience when we encounter her work and its use of unexpected materials, scale and humour; like the off-kilter proportions of the various elements, they attest to the fine sense of humour that sustains her art.

Hamilton has also conceived and designed an artist book to be published with Secession, which comprises a series of images collaged from personal photographs, found images and computer-based drawings.

Anthea Hamilton, born in 1978 in London, lives and works in London.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.
Curator: Jeanette Pacher

Curators' guided tour

Friday, September 28, 4 p.m.

Guided tour through the exhibitions with curators Jeanette Pacher, Bettina Spörr und Annette Südbeck

Publication

Anthea Hamilton

Hardcover, half cloth binding with handmade Hamilton Tartan fabric, 27,5x29 cm

64 pages

Concept: Anthea Hamilton

Words: Stella Hamilton Byrne and Anthea Hamilton

Secession 2018

Distribution: Revolver Publishing

ISBN 978-3-95763-412-2

EUR 35.-

Press images

Installation views are available for download at www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press contact

Karin Jaschke
T. +43 1 587 53 07-10
F. +43 1 587 53 07-34
E-Mail: presse@secession.at

secession

Wiener Secession, Association of Visual Artists
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at
Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 6 pm
Permanent presentation: Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Hauptsponsor



MehrWERT Sponsoring

Public funding and supporters:



BUNDESKANZLERAMT ÖSTERREICH

freunde
der
secession

Cooperation-, media partners, sponsors:



legero united
Initiator of con-tempus.eu

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Biography Anthea Hamilton

1978 born in London, lives and works in London.

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *The Squash*, Tate Britain, London, England
- 2017 *Corn Smut* (with Samuel Nicolle), White Cubicle, London, England
- 2016 *Frieze Projects New York*, Randall's Island, New York NY
Anthea Hamilton Reimagines Kettle's Yard, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, England
Grasses, The Magazine Sessions, in collaboration with Fiorucci Art Trust, Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, England
- 2015 *Lichen! Libido! Chastity!*, SculptureCenter, Long Island City NY
Donuts, Fig-2, ICA, London, England
- 2014 *LOVE* (with Nicholas Byrne), Glasgow International, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2013 *LET'S GO!*, Bloomberg Space, London, England
- 2012 *Kabuki, The Tanks*, Tate Modern, London, England
Les Modules, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2011 *Venice*, Frieze Film, commissioned by Frieze Foundation, England
- 2009 *Spaghetti Hoops*, La Salle de Bains, Lyon, France
Turnhalle, Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
- 2008 *Gymnasium*, Chisenhale Gallery, London, England
- 2007 *Cut-outs*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *Public Fiction: The Conscientious Objector*, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles CA
- 2017 *Footnotes*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, England
Disobedient Bodies, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, England
- 2016 *Turner Prize*, Tate Britain, London, England
History of Nothing, White Cube, London, England
- 2015 *La Vie Moderne*, 13eme Biennale de Lyon, Curated by Ralph Rugoff, Lyon, France
Terrapolis, Neon and the Whitechapel Gallery, École de Française d'Athènes, Athens, Greece
British Art Show 8, Leeds Art Gallery, England
- 2014 *Burning Down The House: 10th Gwangju Biennale*, Gwangju, South Korea
Don't You Know Who I Am? Art After Identity Politics, MuKHA, Antwerp, Belgium
Period Room, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Assembly: A Survey of Recent Artists' Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013, Tate Britain, London, England
Pre-Pop to Post-Human: Collage in the Digital Age, Galway Arts Festival, Galway, Ireland
- 2013 *Better Homes*, SculptureCenter, Long Island NY
ICA Off-Site: A Journey Through London's Subculture; 1980's to now, The Old Selfridges Hotel, London, England

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession

Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien

T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34

office@secession.at, www.secession.at

- 2012 *LUX Biennial of Moving Images*, ICA, London, England
One Person's Materialism is Another Person's Romanticism II, Glasgow International, Glasgow, Scotland
In the Belly of the Whale (Act III), Centro Cultural Montehermoso, Vitoria, Spain
- 2010 *Newspeak: British Art Now*, Saatchi Gallery, London, England
- 2009 *Small Collections*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, England
- 2008 *Art Now: Strange Solution*, Tate Britain, London, England

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

ANTHEA HAMILTON ***The New Life***

List of works

Hamilton Tartan, 2018
printed self-adhesive vinyl
1.300 m²

Karl Lagerfeld Bean Counter, 2012
thermoformed acrylic, wood, digital print on paper, buckwheat, Desiree potatoes, metal brackets
91 x 180 x 5,5 cm; 20 x 190 x 60 cm (plinth)

Cloak Moth Beanbag, 2018
printed fabric, fake fur, wool, Gingham, PVC, polystyrene beads
120 x 370 x 88 cm

Vienna Chefs, 2012/2018
four mannequins, kitchen utensils, clothes, fabrics, accessories, bricks, red cabbage

Tartan butterfly, 2018
printed fabric, tartan, upholstery foam
230 x 210 x 17 cm

Slanted tartan, 2018
brushed stainless steel, bolts
200 x 426,4 x 0,3 cm

Highly blurred tartan kimono, 2018
printed silk, cotton tartan
154 x 154 cm

Monarch butterfly, 2018
printed fabric, Indigo cotton, upholstery foam
145 x 270 x 5 cm

Papilio whip butterfly, 2018
printed fabric, Devoré velvet, Ikat cotton, upholstery foam, leather whips, metal cable ties
230 x 210 x 27 cm

Slanted tartan, 2018
brushed stainless steel, bolts
200 x 426,4 x 0,3 cm

Peacock butterfly, 2018
printed fabric, denim, upholstery foam
145 x 270 x 5 cm

All works: Courtesy of the artist and Thomas Dane Gallery