



Museum der Moderne
Salzburg

Press Release

Marisa Merz

Il Cielo È Grande Spazio / The Sky Is a Great Space

24 May—4 November, 2018

Mönchsberg [4]

The Museum der Moderne Salzburg dedicates a grand retrospective to the 92-year-old artist Marisa Merz, the lone female exponent of Arte Povera.

Salzburg, October 18, 2017. As one of only two museums in Europe, the Museum der Moderne Salzburg presents a comprehensive retrospective of the oeuvre of the Italian artist Marisa Merz (Turin, IT, 1926), an enlarged and rearranged adaptation of an exhibition that has been shown to wide acclaim in the United States. The works on display span five decades in the oeuvre of the only female exponent of so-called Arte Povera, an art movement launched in Italy in the 1960s that caused a stir with works made of common “poor” materials. Merz, whose art was slow to garner major international recognition—in 2013, she was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 55th Biennale di Venezia—creates unique paintings and drawings as well as three-dimensional works, primarily out of pliable substances such as aluminum, hemp, metal wire, and wax. The exhibition showcases her earliest pieces, including the so-called “living sculptures,” numerous paintings and drawings, wire and wax installations, the enigmatic sculptural heads and faces from the 1980s and 1990s, and several recent immersive installations. “Marisa Merz is a preeminent Italian artist whose work was unfairly overshadowed for the longest time by the output of her male Arte Povera colleagues. One of the ideas I first drew up when I took the helm at the Museum der Moderne Salzburg was to devote an exhibition to this exceptional and groundbreaking artist. So I am delighted that, in collaboration with the Hammer Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as the Fondazione Merz, we have been able to put this presentation together,” notes Sabine Breitwieser, director of the Museum der Moderne Salzburg, who will organize the installation of the show in Salzburg together with guest curator Connie Butler. Titled *Il Cielo È Grande Spazio / The Sky Is a Great Space*, it will be on view on level [4] of the Mönchsberg venue from May 24 until November 4, 2018.

Organized in collaboration with the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The exhibition in Europe is co-organized by the Fundação de Serralves—Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, and the Museum der Moderne Salzburg. In cooperation with the Fondazione Merz, Torino. Fondazione Merz’s international projects and activities are supported by Lavazza.

Guest Curators: Connie Butler, Chief Curator, Hammer Museum, and Ian Alteveer, Associate Curator, Department of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Curator at the Museum der Moderne Salzburg: Sabine Breitwieser, Director, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, with Marijana Schneider, Curatorial Assistant

Press

Mönchsberg 32
5020 Salzburg
Austria

T +43 662 842220-601
F +43 662 842220-700

presse@mdmsalzburg.at
www.museumdermoderne.at