



VdBK1867

Verein der Berliner Künstlerinnen 1867

showroom | historical & contemporary

Eisenacher Straße 118

10777 Berlin | www.vdbk1867.de

Thursday through Saturday : 4 - 7 pm

contact : presse@vdbk1867.de

Press release

Head to Head

Laura Bruce & Heidi Sill | April 4th - May 5th 2025

Opening, Thursday : April 3rd // 6 pm

artist talk and exhibition tour : Thursday : April 10th // 7 pm with Nicola Kuhn, Art critic, editor of the Tagesspiegel arts section

Gallery Weekend & Finissage : Sunday, May 4th 4 - 7 pm // with a glass of Prosecco and the presence of the artists

For the exhibition Head to Head, Laura Bruce and Heidi Sill collaborated on two, large-format drawing books of approximately 200 pages each. For one year they worked together using ink, watercolor, pastels, and various pencils on top of, next to, with, and against each other, until cohesive drawings emerged. They glued to the pages scraps of paper from various sources found in the studio, continued the translucency of the back side of one page to the front of the next, and created idiosyncratic stories that sometimes continue on the following page or end abruptly. Their approaches and techniques are different, yet they merge until one is no longer clearly recognizable from the other, which is what makes the book project even more fascinating. Select pages were chosen from the books and can be purchased as editions in the exhibition.

Sill and Bruce will also be exhibiting individual works and in this way join hands in their different artistic identities. Their drawings and collages are narrative, figurative, physical, enigmatic, and funny. They construct and deconstruct their world and ours.

You are cordially invited.

VEREIN DER BERLINER KÜNSTLERINNEN 1867_VdBK1867 :

ASSOCIATION OF BERLIN WOMEN ARTISTS 1867 :The founding of the association in 1867 was a pioneering achievement by female artists. The association acquired its own building and ran its own art academy at Potsdamer Straße 98a in 1893. Artists such as Käthe Kollwitz and Paula Modersohn-Becker were trained in drawing and painting here academically, something which had been denied to female artists until 1919 by the art academies. The VdBK 1867 helped ensure that women received sound artistic training, but also social security, as well as exhibition and sales opportunities. After many years without a domicile, the association now has a new exhibition space at Eisenacher Straße 118 in Berlin-Schöneberg and is committed to the presence and equality of Berlin female artists across generations with a lively exhibition program. It also maintains its cultural legacy and shows work by its historical members.



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THE ARTISTS :

LAURA BRUCE : www.laura-bruce.com

The American artist Laura Bruce, born on September 28, 1959 in East Orange, New Jersey, has lived and worked in Berlin since 1990. She studied at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. Bruce has been a member of the Verein der Berliner Künstlerinnen 1867 since 2019.

Bruce has served on various juries and committees, including as spokesperson for the admissions committee of the Berlin Association of Visual Artists (bbk berlin).

Her work includes drawing, painting, installation, video and performance. Large-format black and white graphite drawings are a decisive part of her work. Recently, she has been creating large-format, abstract colored pencil and graphite drawings as well as ceramic sculptures.

Works by Laura Bruce can be found in the collections of the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, the Kupferstichkabinett Berlin, the Berlinische Galerie, the Landessammlung Rheinland-Pfalz, Mainz, and the Vattenfall Foundation, Berlin, among others.

Bruce's work has been exhibited in Germany, Europe and overseas. Most recently at the City Art Center Edinburgh, Scotland and a solo exhibition with catalog at Galerie Parterre in Berlin.

Laura Bruce's site-specific (10 × 6 m) wall drawing *De Septentrione ad Austrum* (2015) was realized in summer 2015 in Aschersleben in the head building of Bestehornpark and officially handed over to the city of Aschersleben.

HEIDI SILL : www.heidisill.de

born in Fürth / Bavaria, lives and works in Berlin. Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg, master student, then scholarship holder at the Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastiques, Paris.

Numerous grants and awards, as well as exhibitions in Germany and abroad: a.o. Neues Museum - State Museum for Art and Design Nuremberg; Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Le Magasin - Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble; Kunsthalle Nuremberg; Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam; Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden.

Public Art Projects: a.o. Künstlerhaus Nuremberg, Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt Berlin, Deutscher Bundestag Berlin, Frankenschnellweg – noise protection wall.

Teaching Activities: Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin), Ecole Supérieure d'Art et Design Grenoble-Valence (F), HAW Hamburg, Muthesius Kunsthochschule Kiel.

Voluntary Activities: 2013 to 2016 Board member of the Deutscher Künstlerbund, until 2019 Member of the Education Committee of the German Cultural Council and from 2016 to 2022 Spokesperson of the *berufsverband bildender künstler*innen berlin* (bbk berlin). Member of the Rat für die Künste (Berlin Council for the Arts) since 2022.

In her work, Heidi Sill explores the fragility of the human body. Using drawing, collage and installation, she attempts to create images beyond the standardized body images that surround us.