

Espírito volta

Kathrin Karras and Ilka Raupach
October 14 - December 16, 2023



GALERIE BERNAU

The exhibition dialogue *Espírito volta (The Spirit Returns)* by Kathrin Karras and Ilka Raupach brings together the local and the global in a surprising way.

Together with numerous people from Bernau the photographer Kathrin Karras went searching for the spirit of Bernau. In January 2023, the artist called on all Bernau residents to show her their special places in the city, and thus went on an exploratory tour herself. Her meetings took Karras to the Kantorhaus, the Steintor, the Waldfrieden open-air swimming pool, Lobetal, the library, the Church of St. Mary, the Pankepark, the community center, the Schwanenteich and the city wall. She documented all these places photographically and studied the history of Bernau in the city's image archive.

All of the observations from her extensive participatory project found their way into Karras' digital photographic work. Today, Karras finds images for what has been in the past: for memories, moods and personal life stories. The fantastic and colorful collages of her photo series *BER.NOW (2023)* show dreamlike landscapes and are atmospheric images of Bernau. You can read the names of the participants on the wall to the left of the entrance door. And you can listen to their voices with the headphones while walking through the exhibition.

The middle room of the gallery marks the center of this presentation. Here, Karras' works meet Ilka Raupach's wall installation *Zwischen Hier und Dort (Between Here and There)* (2023). Raupach's silkscreens on paper quote the forms of grids, fences, walls, and floral structures from urban space. Here, too, before and behind, as well as inside and outside, intermingle as if to form a dense hedge.

Ilka Raupach is also reading traces. While hiking through the rainforest, she collected seeds washed up by the water on the banks of the Amazon. In the midst of this species-rich environment, it was not always clear to the artist which plant each of the seeds would grow into. She enlarged the seeds and lets them waft in from the courtyard into the gallery space. Her sculpture series *Saatgut (Seeds)* (2021), made of walnut wood, shows: Each seed is a bridge between the past and the future and contains a bit of eternity.

Her sculpture *Siedlung (Settlement)* (2017), like Karras' photographic works, also refers to Bernau's medieval heritage. The whitewashed oak recalls the half-timbering in the Kantorhaus and gallery. Instead of a carpentered workpiece, however, an object sprawling in all directions lies on the floor here, depicting the microcosm of a town in its mobility: People move in, move away, build new, let decay. Raupach finds a multiform shape for the interplay of inner and outer processes.

Raupach's series *Harvest Moon* (2023) in the first room of the gallery connects the narrative strands of the exhibition and of this year's program on the city of Bernau through the ages: The so-called harvest moon brings several bright nights to agriculture at the beginning of autumn. It also reminds us that we live together not only in Bernau, in Brandenburg or in the northern hemisphere, but on the whole earth. Thus, this fall, Galerie Bernau returns to its roots and revives the spirit of regional and global, with which it was founded in 1989 by the citizens of the city.

The exhibition was curated by Marie Egger.



Short biographies

The photographer Kathrin Karras (* 1967 in Guben) lives and works in the Löwenberger Land. She deals with people's life stories, states of mind and biographies by collecting their stories, memories and dreams and translating them into images. For Karras, photography is a search for traces within and without. Trained as a typesetting technician, she studied photography at Imago-Fotokunst in Berlin. Her work has been supported by various grants from the state of Brandenburg and has been nominated several times for the Brandenburg Art Prize.

Ilka Raupach (*1976 in Hennigsdorf) lives and works in Caputh near Potsdam. She completed an apprenticeship as an ivory carver in Michelstadt as well as in Uummannaq and Ilulissat in Greenland. She then studied sculpture at the Burg Giebichenstein Academy of Art in Halle, Germany, and at the Bergen Academy of Art in Norway. From 2009 to 2019, Ilka Raupach was an artistic-scientific assistant at the Institute for Architecture-Related Art at TU Braunschweig. Raupach participated in numerous international exhibitions. She was a fellow of the Acaia Institute in São Paulo and the LABVERDE Residence on the Amazon, both in Brazil.