

Media Release

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Drawing, Reconsidered Six Current Positions

June 5–November 14, 2027, Kunstmuseum Basel | Neubau

Curator: Anita Haldemann

In the exhibition *Drawing, Reconsidered. Six Current Positions* at the Kunstmuseum Basel, six artists demonstrate how drawing in the twenty-first century can express a creative stance vis-à-vis the world. The choice of materials and graphical processes prove to be key aspects of work in the medium. Most of the around ninety works on view come from the collection of the Department of Prints and Drawings (Kupferstichkabinett); some will be created specially for the exhibition.

Historically, drawing served as a sketch of ideas, a preliminary study, or even a detailed plan for something beyond itself, and was thus fundamental to painting, sculpture, and architecture. As a supporting medium, it remained in the shadow of the other arts. This changed radically in the second half of the twentieth century: beginning in the 1960s, the boundaries between painting, sculpture and the graphical arts became permeable, and the potential of drawing—particularly for conceptual art—was increasingly recognized.

Today, drawing is no longer confined to paper, as it was ever since the Renaissance. The gesture of the hand leaving a mark on a surface with a pencil is just one of many possibilities: drawing can extend into the third dimension and incorporate a wide variety of materials such as threads, tape, or textiles. It can require intense physical effort, meditative concentration, and an understanding of the properties of materials, and it can move between figuration and abstraction.

As this exhibition illustrates, drawing can involve engaging with memory and history as well as with the current social and political situation—and one's own role as an artist within it. It is a vital medium of reflection on the artist's work in its social context. Finally, drawing also requires a particular devotion to a fragile material and immersion

in an often labor-intensive process that demands sensitivity to time, space, and relationships.

The exhibition *Drawing, Reconsidered* presents six current positions, with works by the British artist Anna Barriball (b. 1972), the German artist Nadine Fecht (b. 1976), the Swiss artist Franziska Furter (b. 1972), the Polish-German artist Monika Grzymala (b. 1970), the Indian artist Vishwa Shroff (b. 1980), and the Belgian artist Catharina van Eetvelde (b. 1967).

Media Contact

Karen N. Gerig, Tel. +41 61 206 62 80, karen.gerig@bs.ch