

## Kunsthaus Bregenz

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Austria



KUB 2019.02 | Press Release

# Miriam Cahn

## DAS GENAUE

## HINSCHAUEN

13 | 04 - 30 | 06 | 2019

### **Press Conference**

Thursday, April 11, 2019, 11 pm

### **Opening Reception**

Friday, April 12, 2019, 7 pm

### **Press photos for download**

[www.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at](http://www.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at)



To coincide with her seventieth birthday in the summer of 2019, Miriam Cahn is presenting her first major institutional solo exhibition in Austria at Kunsthaus Bregenz. The artist's imagery, which has been presented at documenta on numerous occasions, is as oppressive as it is engaging.

Miriam Cahn's paintings are as oppressive as they are engaging. In pastels or charcoal, she frequently depicts figures that fill the frame within empty, barely defined surroundings. The faces are shadowy reduced, eyes and mouths merely schematic. The bodies, mostly naked, appear lost and ghostlike, as if illuminated by fluorescent light. They are rarely active and when they are, it involves disturbingly simplified, sometimes violent gestures. Loneliness, sexuality, love, violence, and destruction are her subject matter. Cahn is influenced by the performance art of the 1970s, feminist art, and the peace movement. Her figures call for mute identification, sympathy, and a heightened awareness. Sometimes the mountainous landscape of the Upper Engadine is depicted by rugged horizons, overpowering and sublime, and yet, their lines still seem to allude to the human.

Biography

**Miriam Cahn**



Miriam Cahn, born in 1949 in Basel, Switzerland, studied printmaking at the Kunstgewerbeschule, today Schule für Gestaltung, in Basel. As early as 1982 Cahn was invited to participate in documenta 7, Kassel, but withdrew her work after disagreeing with a curatorial intervention. Since then her work has been presented across Europe and internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including Kunsthalle Basel (1983), Museum of Modern Art, New York (1984), Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt/Main (1992), Kunsthaus Zürich (1993), Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (1994), Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (1997), Fundación La Caixa, Madrid (2003), Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2004), Le Plateau, Paris (2012), Museum Tinguely, Basel (2017), and 2019 Kunstmuseum Bern2019 Kunstmuseum Bern, Reina Sofia, Madrid, Haus der Kunst, München and Nationalgalerie für Moderne Kunst, Warschau. She was represented at documenta 14, Kassel (2017), and the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018). Cahn has been awarded the Käthe Kollwitz Prize (1998) and the Prix Meret Oppenheim (2005). She lives and works in Stampa in the canton of Graubünden, Switzerland.

## Partners and Sponsors

Kunsthhaus Bregenz would like to thank its partners for their generous financial support and the cultural commitment that accompanies it.



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