



John Bock. In the Moloch of the Presence of Being
24.02–21.08.2017

PRESS KIT

CONTENTS

Press release

Education programme

Biography John Bock

Exhibition text

John Bock at the IBB video space

Press images

Artist book

Handout exhibition



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

LANDESMUSEUM FÜR MODERNE
KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR
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PRESS RELEASE

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Berlin, 23 February 2017

John Bock
In the Moloch of the Presence of Being
24.02–21.08.2017
Press conference: 23.02, 11 am, opening: 23.02, 7 pm



John Bock, *Der magische Krug*, 2013, © John Bock, courtesy Sprüth Magers, photo: Martin Schlecht

The Berlin artist John Bock (* 1965) has created his installation *In the Moloch of the Presence of Being* especially for the Berlinische Galerie, incorporating several of his existing works and film projections. This is the first time the globetrotting artist has staged a major exhibition in a Berlin museum, following the show *FischGrätenMelkStand* at the Temporäre Kunsthalle Berlin which attracted so much attention in 2010. *In the Moloch of the Presence of Being* offers some insights into his current work.

John Bock is a performance artist and film maker who moreover sculpts, draws and writes. The opulent display at the Berlinische Galerie is at once **a freak show, a theatre stage, an experimental laboratory and a cinema**, and overwhelming in its baroque abundance of meanings. The objects, props and costumes which play a part in the proceedings, whether on film or as part of the live performance, mutate in Bock's cosmos into unpredictable creatures, swelling, hatching, sprouting tentacles and seeking contact with the spectator. Every stage along the trail tells its own story. Together they create a circuit for visitors to circumnavigate in a spirit of discovery, becoming a part of the show as they go.

One of the works included here is *Der Pappenheimer (2013/2017)*, a sprawling, complex spatial installation. Olfactory stimuli, sound, film and pieces of set combine into a narrative that revolves around Casanova and a stone sculpture reminiscent of the Golem. Like his individual works, the show as a whole blends different media, items and installations to form a bizarre microcosm, symbolising the world but ultimately orbiting the artist. This is John Bock's vision of the absurdity of things, celebrated with relish and revealed in a grotesque and mischievous pageant.

IBB video space at Berlinische Galerie presents **John Bock's latest film *Hell's Bells: A Western***: 05.03–03.04.2017, 26.07.–21.08.2017 and during Gallery Weekend Berlin on Sat, 29.04.2017. The Western will be premiered at Sadie Coles HQ in London on March 1, 2017.

Programme:

Guided Tour by John Bock (in German), Sat 29.04., 3 pm (Gallery Weekend), free entrance
Public Guided Tours in English, Mon 06.03., 07.08., 3 pm, Happy-Monday-admission



#JohnBockBG #berlinischegalerie



John Bock. In the Moloch of the Presence of Being
24.02–21.08.2017

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

GUIDED TOURS

Public Guided Tours in English

Monday, 06.03., 01.05., 07.08. 3 pm
Tour is included in Happy-Monday-admission

Curator's tours (in German)

Monday, 27.02., 03.04., 08.05., 26.06., 17.07., 21.08. 2 pm
Museum admission, registration not required

Guided Tours for Groups

Guided tours for groups of up to 22 people in English, French or Italian:
70 € for a tour of 60 minutes, 90 € for 90 minutes, plus a reduced entrance fee
Booking and further details: MuseumsInformation at Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH,
+49 (0)30-247 49-888, museumsinformation@kulturprojekte-berlin.de

Guided tours for schools: General tour

Sek. I (ISCED Level 2), Sek. II (ISCED Level 3). Duration: 60 minutes, free of charge (limited quota, early booking recommended; otherwise 60 minutes 55 € / 90 minutes 75 € per class)
Bookings: MuseumsInformation at Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH, +49 (0)30-247 49 888,
museumsinformation@kulturprojekte-berlin.de

PROGRAMME DURING GALLERY WEEKEND BERLIN

Guided Tour by John Bock (in German)

Sat 29.04., 3pm
free admission

Screening „Hell's Bells“ (movie by John Bock, 90 mins, German premiere)

Sat 29.04., 10:30-12:00, 12:00-13:30, 13:30-15:00, 15:00-16:30, 16:30-18:00
free admission



John Bock. In the Moloch of the Presence of Being 24.02–21.08.2017

BIOGRAPHY JOHN BOCK

born 1965 in Gribbohm, Germany
lives and works in Berlin

Selected solo exhibitions

- 1998 *Memme Muss schlafen*, S.M.A.K, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent, B
1999 *Lombardi Bängli*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
Memme Muss schlafen, S.M.A.K, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Amsterdam, NL
2000 *Projects 71: John Bock*, MoMA – Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
2002 *Saltimbocca*, Oldenburger Kunstverein, Oldenburg, D
2005 Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Marseille, F
2006 *Zero Hero*, The Moore Space, Miami, USA
John Bock... Surrogat, The Netherlands Media Art Institute, Amsterdam, NL
2007 *Stapelung*, MoMA P.S.1. Contemporary Art Center, New York, USA
John Bock. Films, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, D
Buggelpiste, Kunstraum Innsbruck, AT
2008 *John Bock: Palms*, REDCAT, Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, Los Angeles, USA
Para-Schizo, ensnarled, Arko Art Center & Insa Art Space, Seoul, ROK
2010 *Nöle*, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Málaga, E
Curve-Vehicle incl. π-Man-(.), Barbican, London, UK
FischGrätenMelkStand, Temporäre Kunsthalle, Berlin, D
2012 *John Bock: Die abgeschmierte Knicklenkung im Gepäck verheddert sich im weißen Hemd*, Städel Museum, Frankfurt a.M., D
2013 *John Bock. Im Modder der Summenmutation*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, D
Der Pappenheimer. John Bock, Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg, D
Kreatürliche Unschuld, The Hindelooper Room, Fries Museum Leeuwarden, NL
2014 *Knick-Falte in der Schädeldecke*, Sprüth Magers, Berlin, D
2015 *Three Sisters*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, USA
2017 The Contemporary Austin, Texas, USA (upcoming/September)
La Panacée, Montpellier, FR (upcoming/May–August)
Hell's Bells: A Western, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK (upcoming/March)
Im Moloch der Wesenspräsenz, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, D

Selected group exhibitions

- 1998 *LiquiditätsAuraAromaPortfolio*, 1st Berlin Biennale, Berlin, D
1999 *Children of Berlin*, MoMA P.S.1. Contemporary Art Center, New York, USA
German Open. Gegenwartskunst in Deutschland, Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, D
dAPER Tutto, 48th Venice Art Biennale, Venice, IT
Zeitwenden Rückblick und Ausblick, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, D
2000 *KoppelOpKop*, Kunstverein Freiburg, D
Le College, Fond Regional de' Art Contemporain (FRAC), Reims, F
Aller Anfang Ist Merz–Von Kurt Schwitters Bis Heute, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, D
2001 *Hypermental. Rampant Reality 1950–2000*, Kunsthalle Hamburg, D
Yokohama Triennial, Yokohama, J



- 2002 *Hello, My Name is...*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Documenta 11, Kassel, D
- 2003 *Sitings: Installation Art 1969–2002*, MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA
GROTESK! – Grotesque! 30 Years of Witty Art, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, D
- 2005 *What's New Pussycat?*, Museum for Modern Art, Frankfurt, D
Dionysiac, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
When Humor Becomes Painful, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, CH
51st Venice Art Biennale, Venice, I
Lyon Biennial of Contemporary Art, Lyon, F
Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst 2005, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, D
- 2006 *Constructing New Berlin*, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- 2007 *Unmonumental: The Object In The 21st Century*, New Museum, New York, USA
To Be Continued..., Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, S
Into Me/Out Of Me, Marco Rom, Italy, traveled to KW Berlin, Germany; MoMA P.S.1.
Contemporary Art Center, New York, USA
All about laughter, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, J
Live/Work: Performance Into Drawing, MoMA – Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 2008 *Wunderkammer: A Century of Curiosities*, MoMA – Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Vertrautes Terrain, Aktuelle Kunst in und über Deutschland, ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, D
- 2009 *Eating the Universe. Vom Essen in der Kunst*, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, D
- 2010 *17th Biennale of Sydney – The Beauty and the Distance*, Sydney, AUS
Curious? Art in the 21st Century from Private Collections, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, D
- 2011 *Berlin 2000–2011: Playing Among the Ruins*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, J
- 2012 *Track*, SMAK Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent, B
- 2013 *Slapstick!*, Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, D
Il Palazzo Enciclopedico, Arsenale, 55th Venice Art Biennale, Venice, I
Nur Skulptur, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, D
HEIMsuchung – Unsichere Räume, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, D
- 2014 *Der Stachel des Skorpions – Ein Cadavre exquis nach Buñuels „L'Âge d'or“*, Villa Stuck, Munich and Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, D
- 2015 *Poor Art – Rich Legacy, Arte Povera and Parallel Practices 1968 – 2015*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo, N
Avatar und Atavismus, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, D
Storylines: Contemporary Art at the Guggenheim, Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2016 *Ich – Neue Formen des Selbstportraits*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, D
Wolfsburg Unlimited. Eine Stadt als Weltlabor, Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, D



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EXHIBITION TEXT

John Bock (b. 1965) is a sculptor, draftsman, author, action artist, and filmmaker. His first large museum exhibition in Berlin offers insights into his work of the past ten years.

For the Berlinische Galerie, the internationally active artist has combined various single works into a bizarre cosmos. The show overwhelms with a baroque abundance of media and subject matter and is at once a freak show, a stage, an experimental laboratory, and a cinema. Every stop within the exhibition tells a story. Together they form of their own universe. It is his look at the absurdity of things, which John Bock celebrates with pleasure and presents to visitors as a grotesquely wicked spectacle.

With kind support from the galleries Sprüth Magers, Sadie Coles HQ, Anton Kern Gallery, Gió Marconi, and Regen Projects



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JOHN BOCK AT THE IBB VIDEO SPACE: *HELL 'S BELLS*
05.03.–03.04. and 26.07.–21.08. (Wed–Mon, 10:30am–6pm)
29.04., 10:30am–6pm (Gallery Weekend)

Parallel to the exhibition *John Bock. In the Moloch of the Presence of Being*, IBB video space at Berlinische Galerie presents the German premiere of the artist's latest film *Hell's Bells*, featuring Lars Eidinger, Bibiana Beglau, Frank Seppeler, and Laurenz Leky. The film cites the genre of the Western and its classical cast of characters. And yet, because of the absurd plot and the sculptural objects designed by John Bock, it is unmistakably a work by the artist.

John Bock has worked intensely with film for many years now. He first saw in this medium the possibility of expanding his live actions and using film techniques like editing, slow motion, and close ups to give them more precision. In 2004, he produced *Meechfiebers*, his first feature-length film.

The Western will be premiered at Sadie Coles HQ in London on March 1, 2017.

CAST

Bibiana Beglau (strange woman), Lars Eidinger (bad guy), Laurenz Leky (Schußwundenheini), Frank Seppeler (priest), Aydo Abay (gangster), Quirin Bäumlner (gangster), Anna Bone (muse), Heiner Franzen (barkeeper), Laura Gaiser (muse), Till Gaiser (Schuhputzerjunge), Lea Gocht (muse), Florian Koehl (gangster), Adrian Lohmüller (shop owner), Christian Maier (gangster), Manfred Peckl (gangster), Benjamin Quabeck (doctor and gangster), Felix Rombach (gangster), Josephine Schneider (child), Corinne Wasmuht (Puffmutter)

CREW

director of photography: David Schultz; set photography: Martin Sommer; light: Raphael Beinder, Andy Kaiser; sound & score: Kris Limbach; sound assistance: Robert Fuhrmann; sound design: Kris Limbach, Benjamin Quabeck; additional music: Agente Costura, Hopek Quirin, Rieko Okuda, Stephan Müller; art department & set decoration: Markus Bertuch, Adrian Lohmüller, Felix Rombach, Hervé Humbert; costume design: Karin Betzler; hair and make up design: Julia Böhm; hair and make up design assistant: Elena Ziegler; production management: Anette Schäfer; editing: Benjamin Quabeck; director: John Bock

Produced by Sadie Coles HQ



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PRESS IMAGES



John Bock, *Escape*, 2013, Video, 7:30 Min.
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Anton Kern Gallery /
Gió Marconi Gallery / Regen Projects / Sadie Coles HQ,
Photo: David Schultz



John Bock, *Suggestion*, 2012, Video, 16:40 Min.
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Photo: Raphael Beinder



John Bock, *Der magische Krug*, 2013, Video, 15:50 Min.
(Part of the installation *Der magische Krug*, 2013)
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Photo: Martin Schlecht



John Bock, *Da-Dings-Da ist im Groß-Da da weil der Wurm im
Moby Dick wohnt*, 2014, Video, 25 Min.
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers



John Bock, *Escape*, 2013, Installation mit Video, 7:30 Min.
Teil der Installation *Appeldorn*, 2014
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Anton Kern Gallery /
Gió Marconi Gallery / Regen Projects / Sadie Coles HQ,
Photo: Timo Ohler



John Bock, *Große Erscheinung der ins Licht getretenen
TRIEBKREATUR*, 2014
(Ein Vortrag von John Bock mit Kazuma Glen Motomura)
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Photo: Timo Ohler

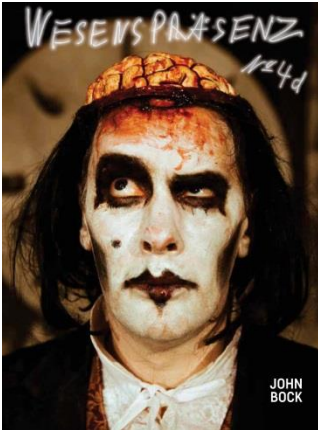


John Bock, *Cowwidinok*, 2013, Video, 82:30 Min.
© John Bock, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, Photo: David Schultz



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Artist book



To mark the exhibition *John Bock. In the Moloch of the Presence of Being* at Berlinische Galerie (24.02.–21.08.2017), the following artist book will be published:

John Bock
Wesenspräsenz No 4d

The richly illustrated publication includes illustrations on the lectures and films of John Bock in chronological order, with a foreword by Thomas Köhler, director of Berlinische Galerie, and an introduction by Stefanie Heckmann, head of department fine arts and curator of the exhibition. A second volume will follow. The photography book is intended to complement John Bock's collecting writings, *Meechfieber. Gesammelte Texte 1992–2013*, published to mark the exhibition *John Bock. Im Modder der Summenmutation*, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn. (Cologne: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, 2014).

Editors: Thomas Köhler and Stefanie Heckmann
Publisher: Buchhandlung Walther König
ISBN: 978-3-96098-093-3
Authors: Thomas Köhler, Stefanie Heckmann
Format: 17 x 22,6 cm
Pages: 308
Illustrations: 343
Languages: German/English
Price: € 28,00