

Media release

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Heute Nacht geträumt An Exhibition by Ruth Buchanan

19.03. – 24.07.2022, Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart

Curators: Maja Wismer with Lena Schaller

For the past forty years, the Kunstmuseum's dynamic engagement with contemporary art has taken place in a building designed in the 1970s. A contemporary outlook involves asking questions. When exactly does the present begin? When does it end? And *which*—and *whose*—present is meant in the first place?

Ruth Buchanan (b. 1980), an artist from Aotearoa New Zealand, probes these and related questions as her exhibition traces the narratives inscribed in the very architecture of the building. (Opened in 1980 as the Museum für Gegenwartskunst, it is today called Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart.) These story lines have inspired Buchanan to relate a number of elements to each other spatially. These include the building itself, the area surrounding it, the museum's exhibition history, its visitors, and the works of art that have been shown there since it opened. Much like a utopian project, the exhibition title represents a proposal to envision new rules for how a museum functions.

At the center of Buchanan's work as an artist are the political dimensions of classification systems and spatial configurations. Collecting strategies, museum signage, and furniture design are all components of her installations, which inspire a reconsideration of how people participate in—and shape—public life.

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