

Media Information

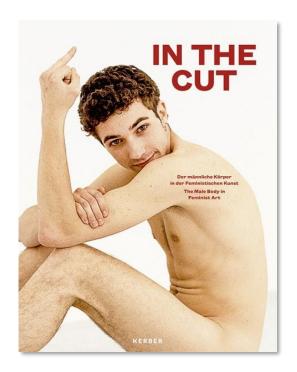
THE FEMINIST VIEW OF MAN

Up until the 1970s the depiction of sexuality was primarily based on the male view of the female body. For female artists to depict men in erotic settings is like a blow for freedom. IN THE CUT – The Male Body in Feminist Art is the first to shed light on the scope and controversy of this artistic practice.

Bielefeld/Berlin, June 26, 2019 – Starting with the fact that we in the Western world are surrounded by images of the nude female body, the handbook IN THE CUT – The Male Body in Feminist Art questions the connection between sex and the feminine gender. With the beginning of modernism, images of male nudes became increasingly rare. Even feminist women artists initially concentrated on their own bodies, while a (hetero)erotic view of men remains the exception to this day. Women artists who cast looks of desire at the male body are breaking taboos and reversing traditional power relations. With their portraits, they stake a claim to sexual self-determination and artistic authority. At the same time, they question classic role assignments and open up the discourse for new kinds of sexual identity.

IN THE CUT – The Male Body in Feminist Art is the catalogue for the eponymous exhibition at the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken. It also is the first to feature collected works by feminist women artists. To begin, there is the first generation, including Louise Bourgeois, Eunice Golden, Carolee Schneemann, Joan Semmel, and Betty Tompkins, who opened up new opportunities to develop their own artistic vocabularies in the late 1960s. The second generation is represented by Sophie Calle, Anke Doberauer, Kathleen Gilje, Herlinde Knoebel, ORLAN, Susan Silas, and Jana Sterbak, who added other media and pictorial forms to painting and photography in the 1980s and 1990s.

Since the turn of this century, however, feminist movements in art have been in retreat. Questions of equality and sexual self-determination are not posed as often. All the greater, then, are the achievements of women artists such as Tracey Emin, Aude du Pasquier Grall, Alicia Framis, Anna Jermolaewa, Julika Rudelius, Mwangi Hutter, and Paula Winkler. "We are always fighting against self-censorship and prudish resistance to themes that are not considered acceptable conversational topics or artistic motifs," says Andrea Jahn, Director of the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken. IN THE CUT — The Male Body in Feminist Art is a first step on the way to a changed awareness, in which female sexuality is perceived as an independent, creative force. The extensive artist's book encompasses more than three hundred pages of essays, portraits of artists, and numerous color illustrations.



IN THE CUT - The Male Body in Feminist Art

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