

Julia Fuchs

What is the significance of the Subject in nude art?

The naked body is treated as an object of deep shame, even though it is something that we all share as individuals, it acts as a home for the "Self."

Contemplation of the "Self" and therefore our naked body has and will always be a source of human fascination. Those who suppress their body's desires and needs, only act to deny and suppress the true nature of the "Self".

The suppression of the female body, represents the concealment of half of humanity, a suppression that spans centuries.

Why is our gaze on male and female bodies so different in Western civilization? Why do we evaluate gender so differently? Where is the queer body, a body that does not fit in our rigid heteronormative system? Are we still able to apply the binary system of "male" and "female" today or has it lost its validity?

We cannot change history but we can question it and identify the dark shadows that have influenced our society in the past and still in the present. Over the last years these questions have inspired and driven my work.

## Strike a Pose

Dancing shadows in eccentric poses, not clearly recognizable or easy to understand, in ecstasy, in a frenzy.

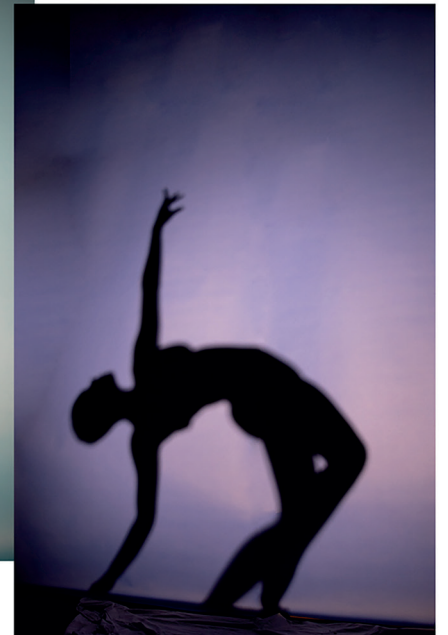
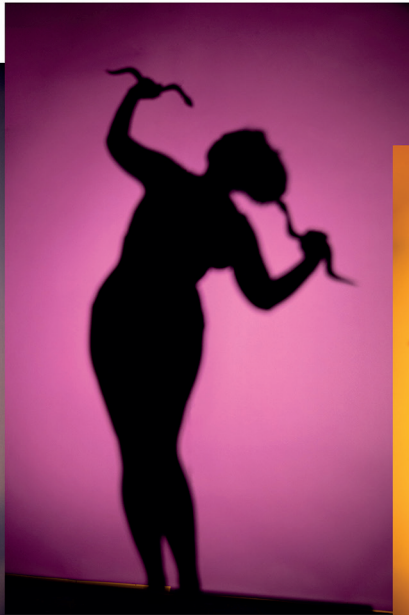
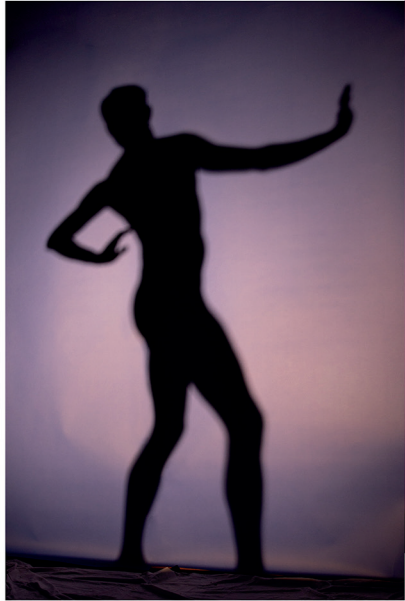
They are reminiscent of ancient satyrs and maenads, the opposite of the well-behaved citizens of antiquity, who celebrate Dionysus, the God of intoxication. But also of voguing, the dance style that emerged in the ballrooms of the African-American gay subculture in New York in the 60s.

Freed from constraints and norms, escaping society's strict behavioral patterns, they break through boundaries and abolish them for the time of celebration.

Race, gender and sexuality are fluid. Dance as uninhibited freedom. See and be seen and celebrate each other in the process.

Series of photographs on Aludibond, 2023





## Rethinking History

History is written by the victors and in Western Society the winners have always been (white) cis men. The writing of history from the white cis male point of view, influences our perception, and thus the perspective of the male gaze on women becomes “normal”, the gaze of the male artist on the female model, is the gaze that reduces women to insecure objects closer to nature than spirit/mind.

The picture series “Rethinking History” breaks from these old views and open a new kind of gaze: I am turning the narrative of art history upside down.

## An der Akademie

Women were not allowed to study at art academies and universities until the beginning of the 20th century. And even then, they were not allowed to participate as students in nude art classes for much longer. The only way for a woman to find a place in nude classes was as a model, however this was not perceived to be a respectable position.

Artwork depicting well-dressed and educated male artists posing next to their nude female models (this can be seen in various representative paintings and pictures throughout art history) are being changed by reversing the female and male roles as part of the project “Rethinking History”. Elegant female artists direct their gaze on a naked man, reducing him solely to his bodily features and treating him as an object.



Through this conversion of traditional societal gender roles, confusion and irritation are being created. These emotions should help to inspire the observer to reflect on this topic, to actively acknowledge.

Photography 2020



## Frauenakte

„Frauenakte“ is the continuation of my work with male statues, in which I reproduced the poses of iconic male statues.

The aim of this project is to reproduce poses from iconic paintings however using naked male figure. By replacing the nude female in the original artwork forces the viewer to analyze the dynamics of our perception.

There is an enormous difference in the portrayal of naked male and female bodies in Western Art History. The female body is shamed, hidden or ignored, however the naked man is celebrated, having no reason to be ashamed of its nakedness.

This project challenges history by reversing the rules established over centuries by men, changes scenes from the past, and creates a new way of viewing art. Change is happening.

Photography 2020



After the Painting Odalisque by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres 1814



After the Painting *Jupiter und Io* by Corregio 1531



After the Painting *Venus* by Sandro Botticelli 1490





After the Painting *Sleeping Venus* by Giorgione 1508



After the Painting *Danae* by Tizian 1543



After the Painting *Olympia* by Manet 1863



After the Painting *La Maja desnuda* by Goya 1795

## Baroque

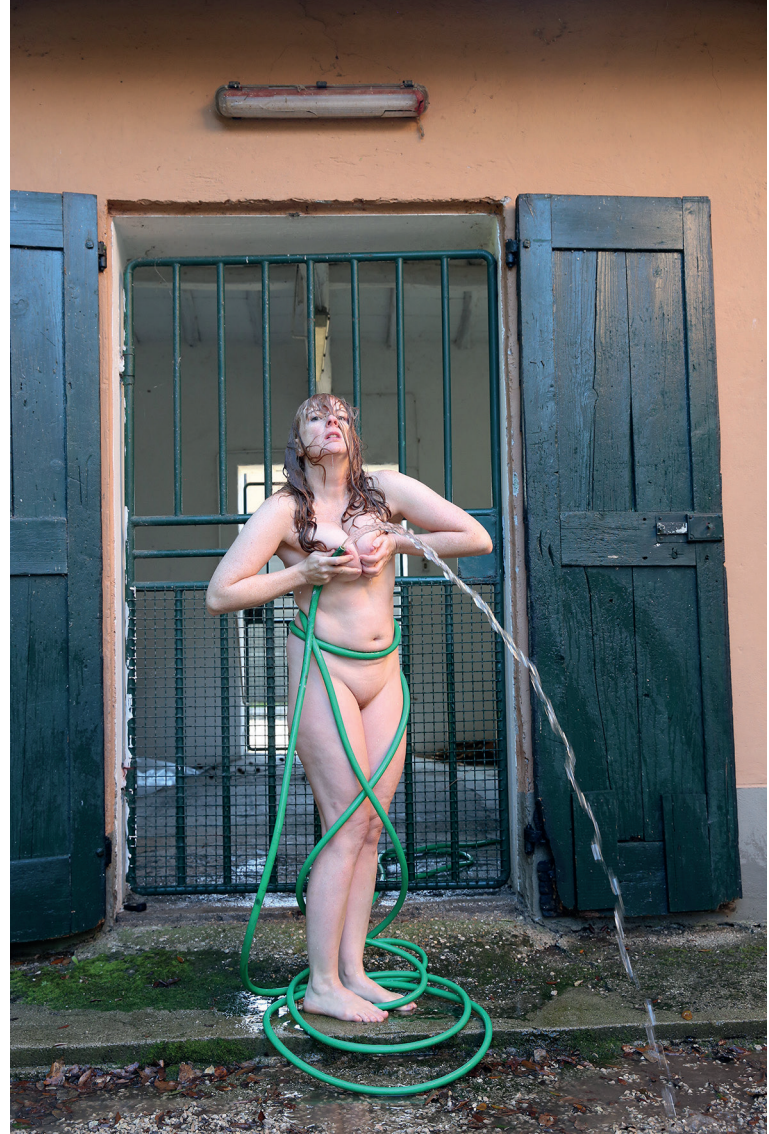
In my work I attempt to break the normative, binary representations of gender in western art history.

Since ancient Greece, men have been depicted naked to emphasize their virtuousness. The male nude represents civil freedom and self-confidence, it shows the hero and the athlete. He stands as a statue in public spaces while female nude was depicted in positions of shame, covered and her gender negated. The woman's body is an object of curiosity, reduced to eroticism and beauty.

The sculpture and photography capture the moment and thereby make it history, something in the past. Frozen in motion.

Photographs 2021





## Camp

In Camp i deal with the nature of representation of nudity and gender and pay homage to the concept of camp, kitsch and affectation.

Theatrical, playful, exaggerated, full of pathos, CAMP frees itself from the attributions and criticism of society and frees itself from gender roles.

A dandy (regardless of gender) has no shame, he/she/they doesn't care about other people's opinions and lives for beauty and extravagance.

Photographs 2021







## Vitruvia

The body type that was defined in Greece between 480 and 440 BC became an idealized image of perfection lasting until the 20th century.

Vitruvius and Polykleitos' definition of proportion stated that the body is composed of geometric forms.

The most famous example is Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of the Vitruvian Man.

The male nude represents human virtues and freedom, even representing humankind itself. There is no female equivalent.

In her work „Vitruvia“, the artist questions the model of the male ideal as a foundation of society and the nation.

Photograph 2015





## All das

The work „all das” is a reflection on women in nude art. The mirror is covered in postcards that show the most relevant positions of female nudes throughout Western art history.

The camera in front of the genitals is quoting male photographers, such as Nobuyoshi Araki, who once said: "a camera is a penis". In this work, the artist uses the camera as a vagina: light comes through the lens and shutter, and materializes on the film or the camera's sensor.

Photograph 2015



## Erinnerungen an Morgen

My work focuses on the breaking of the normative binary gender system of Western art history. I do this by questioning the position of power in which artists find themselves.

Starting in the time of ancient Greek, men have been portrayed naked as a way to emphasize their virtues. This art represents freedom and self-confidence, typically showing men in the typical pose of a hero or athlete. These statues, projecting power and virtue were displayed in public spaces, while art showing naked women was hidden behind closed doors, and in private spaces.

Until the 18th century, art depicting naked women, usually showed them in poses that implied shame. Covering and hiding the intimate parts of their bodies the female is reduced to an object only to be looked at, reduced to eroticism and beauty. Rope and cloth help to trap the woman and reforming her into an imprisoned object.

The aesthetics are reminders of Hellenistic sculptures, the Nikes, goddesses of victory, who were stopped in their movement, their dresses victims to the rough winds.

The art of sculptures and photography capture the moment and in doing so, creating history, something of the past. Solidifying a scene while being in motion, stopping it, forever.

Photograph 2019



## Männerstatuen

Since the Greek antiquity, men are presented nude to show their virtue. The male nude stands for freedom and self-confidence. Standing in a public space, it represents the hero or the athlete, while the female nudes are banned in private space.

Until the 18th century, the female nude is shown with her genitals hidden. Even Aphrodite is ashamed to show her vagina.

The female body is an object and reduced to eroticism and beauty. To show this antithesis, the artist posed like famous male statues.

Photographs 2016



Michelangelos David 1501



Herkules Farnese 320 v. Chr



Canovas Perseus 1799



Apollo Belvedere 350 v. Chr



Myrons Diskuswerfer 460 v. Chr

## CV

### Julia Fuchs

Julia Fuchs, born 1978 in Bregenz

Studied cultural sciences and philosophy in Vienna and Berlin.

2006/2007 School for artistic photography by Friedl Kubelka

2017 Master at the Academy of fine arts Vienna in the class of Ashley Scheirl

lives and works in Vienna

## Ausstellungen:

Queer art spaces, WUK, Wien 2023

Alle, Künstlerhaus Bregenz 2022

Queering the KHM, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, 2022

Use What You Have Festival, Bludenz 2022

Von Evas Töchtern, Rankweil 2022

Moratorium des Alltags, Kollektiv Bregenz 2022 Künstlerhaus Bregenz 2022

Sind wir schon da? Angewandte Festival Wien 2021

Die Befriedigung des Voyeurismus, Studio 8 Bezau 2021

Your body is Yours. Buchpräsentation Wien 2021

Leibessaft, Wien 2020

Kunstankäufe des Landes Vorarlberg, Bludenz 2020 Your Body is yours. Take it. Kollektiv, Bregenz 2019

Queer Art Space Vienna, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Wien 2019

Spielzimmer „Gathering“, Hotel Altstadt, Wien 2019

Das JubJub, Galerie 5020, Salzburg 2018

Bodies and Inhabitants, Freudmuseum, Wien 2018

Queer, Kunstforum Montafon, Schruns 2018

Oh... Jakob Lena Knebl & the mumok collection, MUMOK Wien 2017

Queer Encounters - Vienna Trans L.A., L.A. 2017

Subdocumenta, AMOQA, Athen 2017

Your body is yours. Take it. Ateliertheater 2017

Dick(s) & Titz, Kombineage, Wien 2017

Round Hole Square Peg, Artist Corner Gallery, LA 2016

Club H.O.D. 2015 - The early Year The First Retrospective, aa Collections, Wien, 2016

Transmaniristische Reaktionen, Xhibit, 2015 .....

Kontakt:

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