

**Ulrike Ottinger**  
**Cosmos Ottinger**

19.02. – 15.05.2022





## Ulrike Ottinger Cosmos Ottinger

**Press conference:** 17.02.2022, 12 pm

**Opening:** 18.02.2022, 6 pm

**Exhibition duration:** 19.02. – 15.05.2022

Ulrike Ottinger and the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden have one thing in common: with our location in Baden-Württemberg, we share the same habitat in the artistic context. Born and raised in Constance, Ottinger has been and still is artistically active—be it in the field of visual arts or film—almost everywhere. The year at the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden begins with a major presentation of the internationally renowned artist's multifaceted oeuvre – as the first solo exhibition of the new direction.

Fabulous worlds, surreal settings, somber and serene elements: there is no more perfect place than Ottinger's cosmos to define a queer gaze or formulate a feminist perspective, or even better, to build a personal and political bridge uniting all these elements. Ottinger's cosmos is a galaxy in itself, an outer space, an extraterrestrial threshold that helps us understand who we are today.

As its title suggests, this exhibition features everything that constitutes the legendary Ottinger's artistic practice. This exhibition is entirely dedicated to the imagination of this extraordinary artist and, like a dictionary that defines her languages or an alphabet that deciphers her stories, it turns the pages of her diverse and long-standing oeuvre. The Kunsthalle becomes a stage, a film set, a studio, a backstage, an archive, and a living museum. Photographic images map those places in the world where she has spent her life, while installation elements and sculptural forms reflect her understanding of bodies. Cinematic formats that reflect her politics of storytelling and political statements in many different forms create interstitial spaces.

The work of this pioneer of avant-garde cinematography captivates with its unmistakable aesthetic. Her feminist view of past and current events and portrayal of queer personalities establishes a point of contact with current sociopolitical discussions.

The exhibition tour embarks from the artist's extravagant filmic worlds by means of scripts, film props, object and costume installations, fabric collages, and photographs.

It ends with a presentation of Ottinger's paintings, which she created as a young artist in Paris. With her paintings, she is considered one of the most important representatives of Pop Art in Europe. These works remind us that a critical and creative examination of issues that were already addressed fifty years ago in the student protests in Paris must be unrelenting.

From film enthusiasts to art lovers, from flaneurs to travelers, from an audience to performers—visitors to Baden-Baden will assume very different positions as the exhibition reviews the most significant stages of Ottinger's oeuvre. Reminiscences of her unparalleled films such as *Freak Orlando* (1981) or *Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Tabloids* (1984), as well as examples of her subtle approach to direction in other fields, from photography to painting, form a storyline to understand how Ottinger remembers and reconstructs her own way of storytelling. In the context of exhibition-making, these questions are very relevant today: how do we create unique spaces of film history in a museum setting? And how can we revive these historical elements of early queer, feminist and political themes for future generations?

A selection of Ulrike Ottinger's films will be shown weekly at the Moviac cinema in Baden-Baden to accompany the exhibition. With a Kunsthalle ticket you get one free admission:

Saturday, 19.02.2022, 5 pm	Freak Orlando
Sunday, 20.02.2022, 4 pm	Paris Calligrammes
Sunday, 27.02.2022, 4 pm	Bildnis einer Trinkerin
Sunday, 06.03.2022, 5 pm	Dorian Gray
Sunday, 13.03.2022, 5 pm	Unter Schnee
Sunday, 20.03.2022, 5 pm	Die koreanische Hochzeitstruhe
Sunday, 27.03.2022, 5 pm	Johanna d'Arc of Mongolia
Sunday, 03.04.2022, 5 pm	Madame X – Eine absolute Herrscherin
Sunday, 10.04.2022, 5 pm	Zwölf Stühle
Sunday, 17.04.2022, 5 pm	Prater
Sunday, 24.04.2022, 5 pm	Laokoon & Söhne. Die Verwandlungsgeschichte der Esmeralda del Rio Berlinfieber – Wolf Vostell Superbia – Der Stolz

Sunday, 01.05.2022, 5 pm	Exil Shanghai (Part 1)
Sunday, 08.06.2022, 5 pm	Exil Shanghai (Part 2)
Sunday, 15.05.2022, 5 pm	Paris Calligrammes

In addition, there will be the opportunity to take part in a curator's tour every second Sunday from 20 February on at 3 pm, information on this can be found on our website.

On 9 and 10 April 2022, there will be a public programme dealing with the continuities of Ulrike Ottinger's work, i.e. with the topics of postcolonialism and gender justice, among others.

### **About the artist**

Ulrike Ottinger was born in Konstanz in 1942. From 1962 to 1968, she lived and worked as a freelance artist in Paris. In 1968 she moved back to Konstanz, where she founded a film club and a gallery. Ottinger has lived in Berlin since 1973 and has made numerous well-known feature films and documentaries. In addition to her film work, Ulrike Ottinger's oeuvre also includes extensive photographic work and theater productions.

In 2021 Ottinger was honored with the Hans Thoma award of the State of Baden-Württemberg.

### **Catalogue**

An artist's book with numerous illustrations will be published to accompany the exhibition, including texts by Katharina Sykora, Hannelore Paflik-Huber and Katharina Müller.

## Press contact

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You can download our press kit and image material from [www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse](http://www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse).

## Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Open on all public holidays except 24 and 31 December

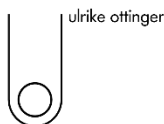
Prices: 7€, reduced 5€, Friday free entry

## Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

Lichtentaler Allee 8a

76530 Baden-Baden

[www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](http://www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de)



**moviac**

The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.



**Baden-Württemberg**

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

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The following images are available in print quality for press purposes. You are welcome to request them directly from: [presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](mailto:presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de).

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Portrait Ulrike Ottinger  
© Ulrike Ottinger



Ulrike Ottinger  
 Das Gastmahl der verfolgten Wissenschaftler und Künstler, 1981  
 Photography  
 © Ulrike Ottinger



Ulrike Ottinger  
 Verzerrungsstudie, 1980  
 Photography  
 © Ulrike Ottinger





Ulrike Ottinger  
Die Siamesischen Zwillinge Lena-Leni, 1981  
Photography  
© Ulrike Ottinger





Ulrike Ottinger  
 La vie quotidienne, 1965/66  
 Triptych, oil on wood  
 © Ulrike Ottinger

## Upcoming

### **Nature and State** (9 July – 16 October 2022)

As a continuation of last year's *State and Nature*, a multi-venue project which extended both terms within the contemporary canon, this year's survey show is entitled *Nature and State* as a dialectic proposal. Through investigating continuity, disobedience, and possible forms of transformation in relation to the state of statelessness and the genealogical relationships between future and past, the new chapter peacefully departs from a quote by Ursula K. Le Guin: "...we have no states, no nations, no presidents, no premiers, no chiefs, no generals, no bosses, no bankers, no landlords, no wages, no charity, no police, no soldiers, no wars." (*The Dispossessed*, 1974)

Parallel to the recent revelations about humanity's roots in David Graeber and David Wengrow's *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, the focus shifts to questioning the main idea of the state as denial of the state of nature by considering how prehistoric communities historically made their own conscious decisions of how to live. The exhibition methodology continues the strategy of the first chapter, *State & Nature*, with events and installations in transition—rather than static forms of exhibition-making. The artistic projects conceived for their particular forms of interconnectivity and interactions with communities, technologies, and creative ideas are by Olga Chernysheva, Will Fredo, Robert Lippok, Christoph Schäfer, Muhannad Shono, Sorawit Songsataya, and Nicole L'Huillier, whereas leading names from contemporary theater and performance such as Grada Kilomba and Ersan Mondtag contribute large scale projects.

### **Jimmy Robert** (28 October 2022 – 15 January 2023)

Autumn will bring performative lenses with sensitive and specific understandings of time and movement at the Kunsthalle. Berlin-based artist Jimmy Robert deals with performative research, strategies of staging, relationships between materiality, object value, and what remains in art history post-performance. In an inspiring, poetic, and strongly political way, Robert revisits the positions of the visitor through transgressive levels of connecting bodies and spaces.