

MGKSiegen

Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen
Unteres Schloss 1
57072 Siegen

MON. 16.3.26
Press Release

The Social Life of Things Nina Beier, David Hammons, Zoe Leonard 17.4.–27.9.26

The exhibition at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen presents works by Nina Beier (* 1975, lives in Copenhagen), David Hammons (* 1943, lives in New York), and Zoe Leonard (* 1961, lives in New York) in a remarkable, cross-generation dialogue. In their installations, sculptures, photographs and videos, the three artists take everyday objects such as mattresses, washbasins, coffee mugs, and lion guardian figures as starting points. Despite their diverse cultural backgrounds and artistic approaches, the artists share a common interest in visualising social experiences and cultural patterns of interpretation by juxtaposing chosen objects.

In ten rooms, the exhibition “The Social Life of Things” shows numerous key works from the 1990s to the present day. Nina Beier generally works with found and collected objects, dealing with questions of their value, origin, reproduction and changing meanings. Her sculptures and installations address global production and circulation processes by means of unexpected combinations. David Hammons is one of the most influential artists of our time. Using seemingly insignificant materials and urban found objects, he creates poetic and subversive pieces that deal with African-American identity, social power relations, and the art system. Zoe Leonard’s work ranges from explorations of natural landscapes and urban space to questions of gender, migration and global trade in commodities. Using repetition and subtle shifts in perspective, the artist draws attention to the unique qualities of seemingly familiar images or objects.

All three artists engage directly with the material, visual and social realities of our world. They are interested in objects already charged with relationships, hierarchies and contradictions. Their works embody these so that the object itself becomes a place of tension between symbolic meaning, material and space. Taking their starting point in the things of human life, Beier, Hammons and Leonard create a moment of recognition while also generating productive uncertainty. This allows us to see the seemingly familiar in a new light.

Curator: Thomas Thiel
Assistant curator: Jessica Schiefer

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Ministry of Culture and Science
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PETER . PAUL . RUBENS . STIFTUNG



Press Conference

FRI. 17.4. 12 am

The Social Life of Things

Nina Beier, David Hammons, Zoe Leonard

With curator and director Thomas Thiel, assistant curator Jeassica Schiefer
and artist Nina Beier

Opening

FRI. 17.4. 7 pm

The Social Life of Things

Nina Beier, David Hammons, Zoe Leonard

Speeches by

Christian Spies, President Peter Paul Rubens Foundation

Thomas Thiel, curator and director MGKSiegen

Artist talk

SAT. 18.4. 11 am

The Social Life of Things

Artist talk with Nina Beier

Curator's tours

THU. 2.7. 6pm / SUN. 27.9. 4pm

The Social Life of Things

Nina Beier, David Hammons, Zoe Leonard

Guided tour with curator and director Thomas Thiel

Public exhibition tours every Thursday at 12.30 pm and every Sunday at 4 pm.

Individual special tours for groups and individuals can be booked by phone (T +49 271 40577 10) or email (buchung@mgksiegen.de).

You can find more public tours and events for kids, teens and adults accompanying the exhibition at <https://www.mgksiegen.de/en/kalender/>.

Press images

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