



Media information
Berlin

June 8, 2024

Leiko Ikemura continues the SculpturePopulaire Series at the PalaisPopulaire

The PalaisPopulaire is dedicating its latest presentation, *With Blue Birds*, to artist Leiko Ikemura as part of its ongoing SculpturePopulaire series. Beginning June 8, the exhibition will feature a new outdoor sculpture by Ikemura, along with additional works displayed in the rotunda of the building. These include works on paper from the Deutsche Bank Collection. **The unveiling of Ikemura's sculpture will take place on June 7, 2024, at 5 pm in front of the PalaisPopulaire (Unter den Linden 5), with the artist in attendance.** This piece marks the sixth installment in the SculpturePopulaire series, following previous works by Tony Cragg, VALIE EXPORT, Tom Sachs, Bunny Rogers, and Erwin Wurm, showcased over the past five years.

Swiss-Japanese artist Leiko Ikemura combines influences from both Asian and European cultures in her painting and sculpture. Drawing inspiration from old Japanese masters, as well as surrealism, postwar modernism, and 1980s figurative painting, Ikemura creates works that depict hybrid, mythological creatures transitioning between human, animal, and plant forms. Her art explores psychological, social, and spiritual states, focusing on the relationship between civilization and nature.

The *Usagi*—Japanese for rabbit—first appeared as a central motif in Ikemura's sculptural work in 2011, following the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. This creature, with rabbit ears and a human face, symbolizes universal mourning as well as resilience and renewal.

Ikemura's figures wear cone-shaped, hollow skirts reminiscent of ritual robes or architectural forms, addressing the relationship between inner and outer reality.

The presentation picks up on this dialectic. On Bebelplatz, the sculpture *Figure With Three Birds* (2021) invites visitors to linger. This round form is echoed inside the building's rotunda, where *Hasen-Säule III* (2021) stands at the center, surrounded by early, rarely shown drawings. The view extends outward in a kind of circular movement, returning to the first sculpture—offering an almost serene meditation on the delicate state of the world.

Leiko Ikemura (*in Tsu, Japan) lives in Berlin and Cologne. She was a professor at the UDK, Berlin, from 1991 to 2015, and has been teaching at Joshibi University of Art and Design in Kanagawa, Japan, since 2014. The artist has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including: Museum Heredium, DaeJean, South Korea; Museo de Arte Zapopan, Guadalajara, Mexico (2023); Georg-Kolbe-Museum, Berlin (2023); CAC La Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències Valencia, Spain (2022); Sainsbury Center for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK (2021); Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, Netherlands (2023); Kunstmuseum, Basel (2019); The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan (2019); Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skärhamn, Sweden (2019).

On July 11 and August 8, there will be a tour of sculptures in public spaces around the PalaisPopulaire at 6:30 pm. This one-hour tour through the neighborhood will feature Ikemura's work *Figure With Three Birds* as well as significant historical sculptures and memorials around Bebelplatz.

Information can be found at palaispopulaire.db.de. Press photos are available at www.photo-files.de/db-palaispopulaire.

#Leikolkemura #SculpturePopulaire #PalaisPopulaire #DeutscheBankCollection
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With its involvement in contemporary art Deutsche Bank has set standards worldwide, be it with the Deutsche Bank Collection, one of the world's most important collections of contemporary artworks on paper and photography, with international exhibitions, or with the PalaisPopulaire, the bank's forum for art and culture in the heart of Berlin. For many years Deutsche Bank has been present at selected art fairs such as Frieze London, New York, Los Angeles, and Seoul.