

Sarah Pierce: Scene of the Myth
Press tour: January 26, 2024, 11 am
Opening: January 26, 2024, 7 pm
Duration: January 27 – May 26, 2024

Leipzig, 12th December, 2023 – GfZK – Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig in collaboration with IMMA – Irish Museum of Modern Art and European Kunsthalle presents from January 27 – May 26, 2024 *Sarah Pierce: Scene of the Myth* curated by Rike Frank. *Scene of the Myth*, is the first expansive solo exhibition by artist Sarah Pierce in Germany. The exhibition brings together eight installations, performances and video spanning twenty years of practice.

Borne out of sticky relationships between the narratives we reproduce and those we wish to leave behind, *Scene of the Myth* asks what it means to gather, reflect, and act in community.

The title of the show stems from one of Pierce's essays in which the artist describes exhibitions as moments through which the narratives and conventions of a historical past are re-constituted in the present. The scene of the myth is not an actual location; it is an occasion where knowledges, both inherited and invented, come into play.

A large body of works relates to Pierce's interest in the figure of the student, in particular the art student, and the tenuous relationship between teaching and learning, politics and art-making.

Live works such as *Future Exhibitions* (2009), *Campus* (2011), and *Levitating in the Nauman* (2014) involve performers, demonstrators, and interlocutors. Pierce will involve local participants in the re-learning and re-staging of key performance works at intervals throughout the exhibition.

Over the last years, Sarah Pierce has developed a concept she names the "community of the exhibition" to describe how exhibitions have a particular ability to hold us, and works of art, in community: „We enter the exhibition with others – other audiences, across generations, geographies and times“.

The show will include artworks that bring to the fore this ongoing and discerning interest in tenuous and unavowable bonds, whether it is the community of dementia in *No Title* (2017), the community of diaspora in *Pathos of Distance* (2015), or the community of the academy in *Towards a Newer Laocoön*.

The Laocoön group is on loan from the collection of the Antikenmuseum at Leipzig University.

A key to the curatorial work is to mark out specific "scenes" in and around Pierce's practice: Institutes and Protests, Legacies and Exercises, Communities and Migrations.

Sarah Pierce: Scene of the Myth is curated by Rike Frank (European Kunsthalle).
The exhibition has been organised by Irish Museum of Modern Art / IMMA, Dublin, in
collaboration with Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst / GfZK (Museum of Contemporary
Art Leipzig) and John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton.



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