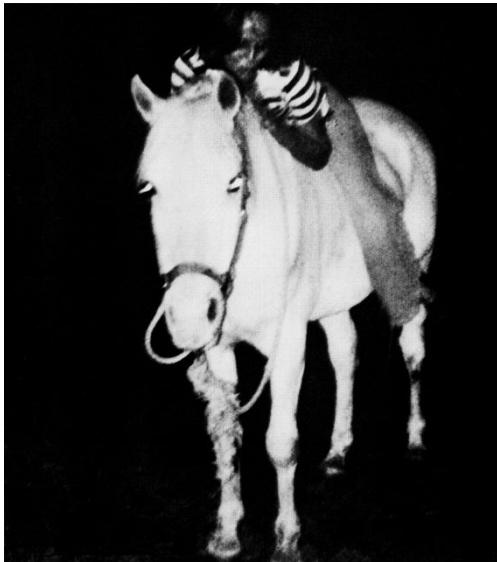


ICA

11 July 2013

Lutz Bacher *Black Beauty*



Exhibition dates: 25 September – 17 November 2013

Press Day: 24 September

The ICA is delighted to present *Black Beauty*, the first major solo exhibition in the UK by American artist Lutz Bacher. Occupying an important position in contemporary art practice, Lutz Bacher's work is receiving increasing levels of international recognition. *Black Beauty* provides a unique opportunity to see Bacher's new works made specifically for the ICA together with recent work for the first time in London.

Since the beginning of her career in the 1970s, Bacher has drawn upon disconnected information from popular culture and her own life, producing works that play with the interchangeability of identity, sexuality and the human body. Bacher uses images and objects in a physical, sometimes visceral manner, conducting arrangements of seemingly disparate entities and allowing them to interact in new ways. The artist's expansive work explores human identity as it is defined through gender, sexuality and the human body. Lutz Bacher is as elusive as her work is ambiguous, perhaps preferring not to dictate how her works should be viewed.

The exhibition at the ICA will present new and recent works which combine striking installations with film, sound and sculpture. At the core of the exhibition will be *Black Beauty* (2012), several tons of coal slag which will flow throughout the lower gallery. This piece will be paired with a sound work, *Puck* (2012) which will envelope the viewer as they move through the space. The audio recording of the character Puck

at the conclusion of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is repeated with different emphases and pronunciations. In addition *Angels* (2013), a found broken mirror, will be reconfigured and placed within *Black Beauty*. *Black Magic* (2013) is a new site specific work made from black vibrating 'astroturf' that will be displayed along the full length of the concourse in the lower gallery.

The entrance to the upper galleries will feature *It's Golden* (2013), a new work made from iridescent gold mylar. Accompanying this will be *Chess* (2012) and the sound piece *Elvis* (2009), a looped audio work featuring Elvis Presley crooning in the background. Bacher's interpretation of narratives is further explored in the new installation *Horse Shadow* (2010-12) which will slowly rotate, casting shadows across the gallery walls. This will be paired with *Horse Painting* (2010).

The enigmatic and eclectic mixture of ideas that Bacher brings together are full of personal and philosophical significance and are frequently driven by tactical humour.

Lutz Bacher is the focus of three exhibitions in Europe this year, the first was at Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (9 February – 14 April, 2013), the second at the ICA (25 September – 17 November 2013), and the third at Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland (opening 22 November 2013). A publication presenting the artist's complete oeuvre in the form of an artist book will also be issued in co-operation with Kunsthalle Zurich and Portikus in Frankfurt and will include an essay by Caoimhin Mac Giolla Leith (University College Dublin).

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Listings information:

Lutz Bacher: Black Beauty, 25 September – 17 November 2013
Free exhibition
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Book online www.ica.org.uk
Call Box Office 020 7930 3647 Textphone 020 7839 0737
Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH

Editor's Notes

About Lutz Bacher

Lutz Bacher lives and works in Berkeley, California and New York. Selected solo exhibitions: 2013, Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, (Switzerland), Portikus, Frankfurt, (Germany); 2012, Berkeley Art Museum (Berkeley, California); 2011, Cabinet, (London, UK); 2009, MoMA/PS1 (New York), Kunstverein Munich (Munich); 2008, Contemporary Art Museum (St. Louis); 2004, American Fine Arts (New York); Selected group exhibitions: 2013, White Columns Annual, White Columns, (New

York); 2012, Whitney Biennial (curated by Jay Sanders and Elisabeth Sussman), Whitney Museum of American Art, (New York); 2007, "Closed Circuit," The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York); 2006, "Defamation of Character," MoMA/PS1 (New York).

About the ICA

The ICA supports radical art and culture. Through a vibrant programme of exhibitions, films, events, talks and debates, the ICA challenges perceived notions and stimulates debate, experimentation, creativity and exchange with visitors. Founded in 1946 by a group of artists including Roland Penrose, Peter Watson and Herbert Read, the ICA continues to support living artists in showing and exploring their work, often as it emerges and before others. The ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experimentation since its formation and has presented important debut solo shows by artists including Damien Hirst, Steve McQueen, Richard Prince and Luc Tuymans. More recently Pablo Bronstein, Lis Rhodes, Bjarne Melgaard and Juergen Teller have all staged key solo exhibitions, whilst a new generation of artists, including Luke Fowler, Lucky PDF, Hannah Sawtell and Factory Floor have taken part in exhibitions and residencies. The ICA was one of the first venues to present *The Clash* and *The Smiths*, as well as bands such as Throbbing Gristle. The inaugural *ICA / LUX Biennial of Moving Images* was launched in 2012, and the ICA Cinema continues to screen rare artists' film, support independent releases and partner with leading film festivals. The ICA welcomes 400,000 visitors a year to its building on The Mall in the heart of London. The Director of the ICA is writer and curator Gregor Muir, author of *Lucky Kunst*.

Exhibition kindly supported by The Henry Moore Foundation

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Image Credit: Lutz Bacher, *White Horse*, 1981, Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Buchholz, Cologne/Berlin, and, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York