

Energies Judith Hopf

22.09–11.12.2022

An exhibition at Bétonsalon – centre for art and research
and at the Frac Île-de-France, Le Plateau

Press visit: Tuesday 20th September, 9:30 am

Opening at Le Plateau, Wednesday 21st September, from 6pm to 9pm

Opening at Bétonsalon, Thursday 22nd September, from 4pm to 9pm

Curators: François Aubart, Xavier Franceschi, Émilie Renard



Judith Hopf, *Phone User 3*, 2021 (detail)

Clay, concrete plinth, 67 x 18 x 20 in.

Photo: Andrea Rossetti © Adagp, Paris, 2022 / Judith Hopf

Courtesy Judith Hopf and kaufmann repetto Milan / New York

Contacts:

Isabelle Fabre, Head of communications > +33 1 76 21 13 26 ifabre@fraciledefrance.com

Lorraine Hussenot, Press relations > +33 1 48 78 92 20 / +33 6 74 53 74 17

lohussenot@hotmail.com



Le Plateau is partnering with Bétonsalon to host a two-part exhibition by Judith Hopf, from September 22 to December 11, 2022. Since the 2000s, the German artist has been making sculptures and films fuelled by reflections on the relationships that human beings have with technology. For this first monographic exhibition in France, orchestrated by three curators: François Aubart, Xavier Franceschi and Émilie Renard, Judith Hopf unites existing and new works. The title, *Energies*, refers to what powers each of our electrical appliances, considered from a technical as well as a philosophical point of view.

While at Bétonsalon the artworks revolve around the consumption of energy, at Le Plateau the production of energy is the focus. Judith Hopf has created several works for the occasion that evoke the transformation of meteorological phenomena such as rain and sun into electricity. This mastery of the environment is also expressed in sculptures made from solar panels that have been nibbled like a Swiss cheese or have holes in them so that we can see through them and observe what is behind them. The instrumentalisation of the landscape that she enables us to see also animates the sculptures of animals that recall a nature that has become serialized and dehumanized, a world where rationality prevails over attention to the living.

This exhibition uses oppositions between natural evolution and stubborn growth to compose scathing scenarios that are even more devastating because they represent our daily lives. Filled with reflections on energy consumption, *Energies* reminds us that many of our actions and activities depend on the conversion of natural resources into power and that, in this age of video-conferencing, large quantities of electricity and human energy are needed to create exhibitions. The *Phone Users*, sculptures of characters busy checking their phones, which correspond from Bétonsalon to Le Plateau may be a metaphor for this, they will continue to communicate until they must tell the other person: "I've run out of battery".

Judith Hopf (born 1969, Karlsruhe, Germany) lives and works in Berlin. Her work has been exhibited in numerous international institutions, at SMK - National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (2018); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2017); Museion, Bolzano (2016); Neue Galerie, Kassel (2015); PRAXES, Berlin (2014); Kunsthalle Lingen, Lingen (2013); Studio Voltaire, London (2013); Fondazione Morra Greco, Naples (2013); Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt (2013); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (2012); Grazer Kunstverein, Graz (2012); Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe (2008); Portikus, Frankfurt (2007); Secession, Vienna (2006); Caso Institute for Art and Design, Utrecht (2006) She has participated in numerous biennials and group exhibitions, such as Lenbachhaus, Munich (2018); Mudam, Luxembourg (2017); La Biennale de Montréal (2016); 8th Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2014); Sculpture Center, New York (2014); Triennale for Video Art, Mechelen (2012); dOCUMENTA13, Kassel (2012); Kunsthalle Basel (2011); Kunsthall Oslo, Oslo (2010). Judith Hopf teaches at the Städelschule, Frankfurt School of Higher Art.

le plateau, paris / 22, rue des Alouettes, 75019 Paris - France / T +33 1 76 21 13 41 / www.fraciledelfrance.com
Open: Wednesday to Sunday from 2pm to 7pm / Late night every 1st Wednesday of the month, until 9pm.
Free admission

Bétonsalon - centre for art and research / 9, esplanade Pierre Uidal-Naquet, 75013 Paris - France /
T +33 1 45 84 17 56
Open from Wednesday to Friday from 11 am to 7 pm and Saturday from 2 to 7 pm / www.betonsalon.net
Free admission

* Émilie Renard is the director of Bétonsalon - centre for art and research and François Aubart is an independant curator, editor and teaches at the École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy (ENSAPC).

Both exhibitions have received financial support from the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, and from the galleries Deborah Schamoni, Munich and Kauffman Repetto, Milan and New York.

le plateau, paris
22, rue des Alouettes
75 019 Paris - France
T +33 1 76 21 13 41
fraciledelfrance.com

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