

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

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ARABELLA HOPE : ALL OUR HELIUM IS ESCAPING INTO SPACE!

Opening reception: 27 April 2019, 4pm-10pm

Exhibition period 27 April - 20 May 2019

Curated by Linda Toivio

Hošek Contemporary is pleased to announce Arabella Hope's first exhibition with the gallery, which is officially marking the opening of the programme for 2019. Held during Gallery Weekend Berlin, *All our Helium is Escaping into Space!* is presenting large inflatable paintings made out of Mylar, the material typically used for helium balloons. Each artwork the size of a single bed, they will take over the whole exhibition room in Heimatland's old cargo space, their metallic surface contrasting with the darkness. In her work, Hope is looking at consumption and our insatiable need for more, while the world is steadily running out of helium. Necessary for MRI scanners and chemistry laboratory equipment, this crucial element is escaping into the stratosphere and we are unable to produce more. There is something comical yet heartbreaking and very human in the fact that we are wasting it all on party balloons and ephemeral entertainment.

The artist's aim is not to criticise people for their enjoyment of such objects, as she believes that no real change can be brought about by guilt or dread. Instead, she would like her work to address the complex relationship we have with these materials, whether positive or negative. Nevertheless, the state of the planet and the urgency of the environmental crisis cannot be ignored. As the current generations are the first ones to truly fear overpopulation and climate disaster, Hope is examining our obsession with consumption and cheap materials through her cross-disciplinary paintings and installations. She is attempting to open a discussion between the high culture of art and the disposable cheapness of plastic. Engaging with the history of art and mark-making, her work is a conversation about painting, seeing how far it can be pushed and what it means. *All our Helium is Escaping into Space!* is also reminding us, that everything disposable we produce today will last for hundreds or even thousands of years.

The event is held during Gallery Weekend Berlin 2019.

About the artist

Arabella Hope was born in Scotland in 1982. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 2007 and will start an MA at the Royal College of Art in London later this year. Her work is always about painting, which she combines with mass-produced objects, plastics and cheap materials. She is currently living in Berlin.

www.arabellahope.com

About Hošek Contemporary

Established in 2016 by Petr Hošek, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific installations, performing arts, experimental sound installations and dance. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is also hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international musicians.

About MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was operating under the name Ida and first used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed Heimatland, meaning "homeland". In the 90s, the ship was used for moving sand and chippings on Elbe and Havel. Finally in 2002, it began serving for cultural purposes, when German sculptor Christiane Möbus chose it for her *Nackte Tatsache* project. Since March 2018, Heimatland has served as the exhibition space and artist residency of Hošek Contemporary. The boat is permanently anchored in the historic port of Berlin.

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