

The characters that populate Dorota Jurczak's image world, human and non-human, share a mood that is at once candid and secretive. And this mood can also manifest as uneasiness. This is an exhibition of newly conceived etchings and bronze reliefs staged as an installation in the round. The show follows long-running work with Jurczak – departing from printmaking in our etching workshop, and developing further into a body of work and system of screens within and between the distinctive arches of the Künstlerhaus.

Two central characters in the exhibition are the thin outlines of a young boy and girl, each standing by, and holding on to the doorknob of a half-opened, or closed, door. These human-size bronze reliefs are caught in the gauche threshold between waiting and entering. The characters do not see each other – their eyes are missing, although the delicately made doorknobs stare right back. There is a tension there between the desire to communicate and the desire to hide, which carries through in the new body of work. The screens holding and showing etchings and bronzes are both a device to create groupings and relationships, from the more delicate lines and figurations of the dry point, to the large-colour fields and intensity of the aquatint, but they are also carrying on that important play between opening and closing, hiding and revealing.

Within these relationships a significant attention to character, and the spirit of a character is produced. There is no single space within and between these works in which the essence as such resides, and instead an understanding is established; personhood is given with equal care to a bird, a breast, and the thin, long-handed boy and girl. Jurczak's figuration suggests how much, or how very little, is needed for the spirit and idiosyncrasies of a being to be conjured up. 'Johanna' becomes the cipher or container of a potential character, or stand in for such, but also loops back to the name of a Künstlerhaus workshop manager with the same name. *Johanna*, this Johanna, is a meditation both on the fictional possibility and melody of a name, whilst carrying with it the reminder of the physical and collective process which enabled the characters to be made in the first place.

In contrast with the installation and characters of the top floor of *Johanna*, the lower galleries have a distinctively different atmosphere and use. The space has been conceived between Jurczak and artist Christian Flamm, with spatial shifts and wooden walls, a marquee-covered booth, and dancefloor. This is the environment for a DJ set by Flamm for the opening celebrations of the exhibition, and remains after the opening.

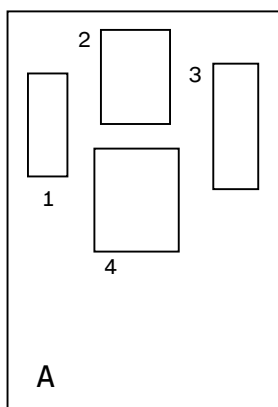
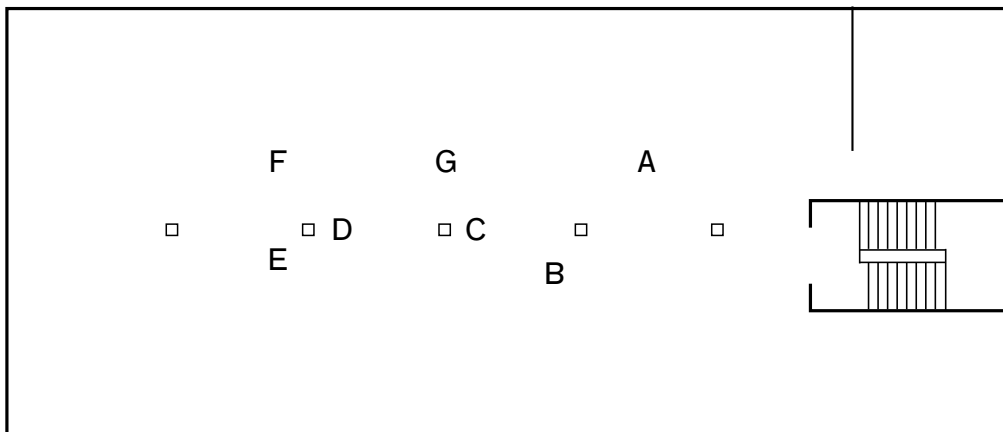
Dorota Jurczak
JOHANNA
11 February – 30 April 2017

Künstlerhaus Stuttgart
Reuchlinstraße 4b
D-70178 Stuttgart
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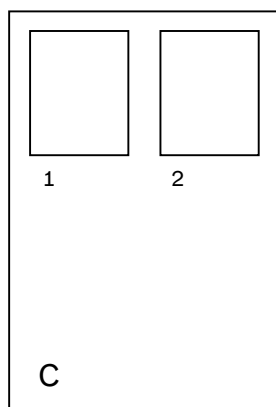
Dorota Jurczak (b. 1978 Warsaw, Poland) lives and works in Stuttgart. Recent solo exhibitions include: ~.{}.-, Culturgest, Lisbon and Porto (2016); *Lucifers*, Etablissement d'en face, Brussels and *Bzzz*, Galeria Piktogram, Warsaw (2015); *Kloake*, Corvi Mora, London (2011). Selected group exhibitions include:

Affective Affinities, Frans Hals Museum, De Hallen Haarlem (2014); *Salon der Angst*, Kunsthalle Wien, Wien; *A Top-Hat, a Monocle, and a Butterfly*, Etablissement d'en face, Brussels; *The Slimy Trail of Slug and Snail*, P.S.1 MoMA, New York (with Abel Auer) (2007); *Of Mice and Men*, 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2004).

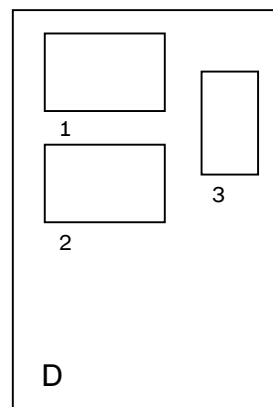
Level 4



A
 1 *introligator*
 2 *urny*
 3 *wykrzyknik*
 4 *flasher*
 all etchings, 2017



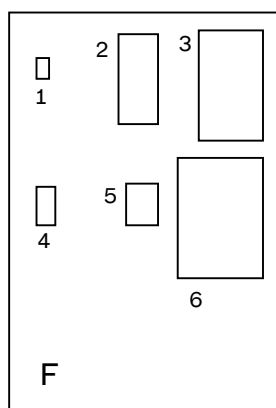
C
 1 *sale*
 2 *Klaudiusz*
 all etchings, 2017



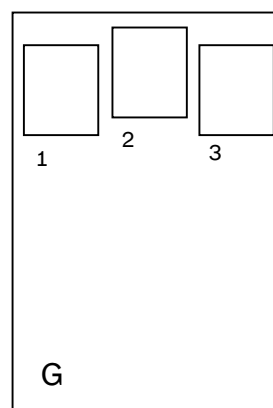
D
 1 *dunes*
 2 *dunes*
 3 *firebird*
 all etchings, 2017

B
im 4. stockwerk (junge),
 bronze, 2017

E
im 4. stockwerk (mädchen),
 bronze, 2017



F
 1 *ptak I* 4 *ptak IV*
 2 *ptak II* 5 *ptak V*
 3 *ptak III* 6 *ptak VI*
 all etchings, 2017



G
 1 *sam*
 2 *we dwoje*
 3 *we troje*
 all etchings, 2017

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With support from Corvi Mora, London and Sammlung Scharpff



**KÜNSTLERHAUS
 STUTTART**