



ARTISTS' CONQUEST. **Margret Eicher, Luzia Simons, Rebecca Stevenson, Myriam Thyes.** 14 August – 31 October 2021, Pillnitz Palace, Dresden, DE.

Curators: Dr. Dirk Welich (Director of Pillnitz Palace Museum), Thomas A. Geisler (Director of Museum of Decorative Arts Dresden).

Photo: New Palace, central hall. Two tapestries by Margret Eicher, three sculptures by Rebecca Stevenson, a 3 channel video projection by Myriam Thyes.

(Opposite wall: two large images - scans of tulips - by Luzia Simons.) Photo: © Ben Walther, Schlosserland Sachsen.



TRISOLARIS CHINOISERIE, Myriam Thyes, 2021, 3 channel video installation, projection at the ceiling of the gallery in the main hall in the New Palace of Pillnitz Palace.



GALLERY OF HEROIC WOMEN, Myriam Thyes, 2019, in the New Palace, placed above busts of former rulers of Saxony.



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AFTER TIEPOLO, Myriam Thyes, 2013, video projection at the ceiling of the Watteau Hall in the Hillside Palace of Pillnitz Palace (Museum of Decorative Arts Dresden).
On the table: 'System in Shards' by Luzia Simons.



HEROIC VIRILITY, Myriam Thyes, 2007, video projection in the Riverside Palace of Pillnitz Palace (Museum of Decorative Arts Dresden).

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14.8. – 31.10.2021, Pillnitz Palace, Dresden, DE

'Artists' Conquest' is the first in a new exhibition series organised by the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) and the Staatliche Schlösser, Burgen und Gärten Sachsen (State Palaces, Castles and Gardens of Saxony). Contemporary artists create surprise encounters for visitors in the historic and culturally significant buildings of Pillnitz Palace. Taking an approach that is at once affectionate, ironic, provocative and thoughtful, the juxtaposition of the contemporary art with historic surroundings vividly illuminates the connections between past and present. The artists' interventions sharpen the mind and re-focus the vision, generating a new perspective on familiar forms. Art, culture and history combined inspire us to take wing towards this magic.

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Artists Margret Eicher, Luzia Simons, Rebecca Stevenson and Myriam Thyes "conquer" the historic rooms and museum displays in both the Museum of Decorative Arts and the Castle Museum. The four artists of international origin (Germany, Brazil, Great Britain, Switzerland) respond to the historic interiors of the three palaces and the objects held in the collections. In so doing, their works explore the ideas and imagery of baroque exuberance and exotic decadence from a contemporary perspective.

For the presentation in Pillnitz Palace, new works were created in response to the chinoiserie style of the architecture and in reference to the garden flora. In total, around 30 works of art can be seen as interventions distributed over all three locations (Riverside Palace, Hillside Palace, New Palace) of Pillnitz Palace.

Thyes's animation (a 3 channel video installation) Trisolaris Chinoiserie derives from the chinoiserie frescoes on the Hillside Palace of Pillnitz Castle. Fragments of these appear on revolving globes, like heavenly spheres. The three globes allude to the science fiction trilogy Trisolaris by Cixin Liu. Motifs from the frescoes come adrift from the "planets" and morph into contemporary imagery from China, giving rise to a modern "chinoiserie". – Her film still series Gallery of Heroic Women is placed above busts of former rulers of Saxony.

Museum of Decorative Arts Dresden, exhibition page:

<https://kunstgewerbemuseum.skd.museum/en/exhibitions/artists-conquest/>

Pillnitz Palace and Park, exhibition page:

<https://www.schlosspillnitz.de/en/events-exhibitions/events/event/special-exhibition-artists-conquest-1/21664/>