

## Rudolf Scharpf Gallery

### Un\_heard. How the vulva makes itself heard today!

From October 11 to December 15, 2024, the Rudolf Scharpf Gallery of the Wilhelm Hack Museum is presenting the exhibition "Un\_erhört. How the vulva makes itself heard today!". With 15 contemporary positions from the fields of painting, sculpture, photography, video animation, installation and graphics, the exhibition explores the vulva and its related socio-political themes.

Even though the vulva as an external part of the female\* genitalia has been increasingly taken up and addressed in art, culture and society in recent years, the vulva is still largely associated with taboos, ignorance and shame. The

exhibition therefore brings together contemporary artists who have dedicated themselves to the positive reappropriation and visualization of the vulva and the femininity it symbolizes. The artists deal with the vulva through themes such as empowerment, sexuality, menstruation, cultural history, identity and gender. They address the socio-political aspects associated with the vulva, point out problematic narratives and deal with the history of culture and representation. While the vulva was perceived positively in early cultures and had a correspondingly positive meaning, the development of religious interpretations and corresponding moral norms and restrictions in later centuries led to its association with shame and negativity. This polarizing view can still be felt today.

The artistic works presented are in the art-historical tradition of the feminist avant-garde - an art movement that provided significant impetus for the visibility of the vulva and the female body in the 1970s with artists such as Valie Export, Carolee Schneemann and Hannah Wilke. Theorists such as Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Laura Mulvey and Judith Butler also made important contributions to feminist developments that influenced artistic works.

"Un\_heard. How the vulva makes itself heard today!" ties in with current feminist discourse and highlights artistic positions that give the vulva a voice in the 21st century.



Bob Jones, from the series *My bare self* (10-piece), 2016, digital prints on Hahnemühle Baryta Fine Art paper, Bob Jones / VG Bild-Kunst Bonn 2024

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The exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to explore the social, historical and cultural issues surrounding the vulva and to take a new look at this often shameful part of the body.

With works by Zara Alexandrova, Amae Collective, Pascale Eiberle, Christiane Fichtner, Sophie Fladt, Bob Jones, Petra Mattheis, Zoë Claire Miller, Rosa Roedelius, Helga Schager, Marina Stiegler, Sophia Süßmilch, Myriam Thyges, Michelle Verhoeks, Betty Wimmer.

The exhibition will open on

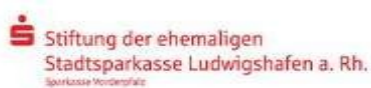
**Friday, October 11, at 6 pm, in the Rudolf-Scharpf-Galerie, Hemshofstraße 54, 67063 Ludwigshafen**

with a welcoming address by museum director René Zechlin. Curator Anne Hörz introduces the exhibition.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Rhineland-Palatinate Foundation for Culture and the Foundation of the former Stadtparkasse Ludwigshafen a. Rh.

We cordially invite you to report on the press tour and the exhibition opening.

You can download press photos in the press area (<https://www.wilhelmhack.museum/de/presse>) under "Press photos exhibitions 2024" with the following access data: User: presse, Password: presse2019.



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**Supporting program for the exhibition "Un\_erhört. How the vulva makes itself heard today!"**

**Workshop: Queerschnitt**

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

In this workshop specially designed for queer people, collage is explored as a means of creating new meanings and as a form of self-expression. Led by Valentina Jaffé and Melanie Meißner. Cost: Pay What You Want, including materials (you are welcome to bring your own images). Registration at: [anmeldung.whm@ludwigshafen.de](mailto:anmeldung.whm@ludwigshafen.de)

**Pop-up sewing stand with Wilde Vulven**

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 3 to 6 p.m.

In the exhibition, artist Hannah Roth, founder of the Wilde Vulven art project, invites visitors to make their own creations with fabric, inspired by the vulva. At the same time, she offers space to discuss the themes of the exhibition. Participation is free, donations to support the project are welcome.

**Game night at the Queer Center Mannheim**

Thursday, November 7, 2024, from 6 p.m.

The Queer Center Mannheim organizes a monthly games evening. The November games evening will take place in cooperation with the Wilhelm Hack Museum, with games on the subject of vulvas being provided. Participants can playfully explore the topic in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Participation is free of charge. The event will take place at the Queer Center Mannheim, G7 14, 68159 Mannheim.

**Curator tours**

Sundays, October 20, 2024 and November 24, 2024, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The curator of the exhibition, Anne Hörz, will guide you through the exhibition and provide insights into the background and ideas that contributed to the curation of the exhibition. The guided tours are free of charge.

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