

MAK Center Los Angeles presents
VALIE EXPORT: *Embodied*

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MAK – Press and PR

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Starting on 28 February, the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles is presenting a solo exhibition by VALIE EXPORT, one of the most significant Austrian artists of the present and a pioneer of Feminist Actionism. Under the title *Embodied*, the exhibition includes selected items from her groundbreaking work group *Body Configurations* (1972–1982), created over many years, in which she places her body in relation to architectural configurations in public spaces, thus proclaiming the body to be both material and projection surface. *Embodied* is the first solo exhibition of the artist in the Californian metropolis since 2001.

“With the exhibition *Embodied* in our Los Angeles satellite location, the MAK Center, we are delighted to present in the USA one of the most important contemporary Austrian artists of international renown. This exhibition of VALIE EXPORT’s works—in particular her *Body Configurations*, combining as they do body and space in very special ways—in the Schindler House, a building of unique and almost intimate architectural quality, is an event of great moment and a very special kind of encounter,” according to Lilli Hollein, General Director and Artistic Director of the MAK.

VALIE EXPORT (* 1940) is considered one of the most important international representatives of conceptual media, performance, and film art. In her multidisciplinary oeuvre she explores gender roles, sexuality, intimacy, the role of women in society, social norms, and power relationships, as well as interventions in both private and public space. She has created one of the most significant compilations of feminist art of the postwar period, and with her films and performances of the 1960s and 1970s, in which she explores her own body in its relationship to her environment, culture, and society, has brought a new form of radical feminism to Europe.

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Her work group *Body Configurations*, created over many years, reflects VALIE EXPORT's earlier deliberations on the political aspects of space, architecture, and image creation, and on the body as an ideological and technological vehicle of expression. Accompanying selected works from the series, the MAK Center presents two video creations: *Conjoined Dislocations* (1973), a cinematic exploration of perceptions of space and reality, and *Syntagma* (1983), a summary of VALIE EXPORT's cinematic exploration of the female body.

The exhibition, curated by MAK Center Director Jia Yi Gu together with the MAK Center Team, is accompanied by a performance program with the motto *In Their Own Image*. The Los Angeles artists Zackary Drucker, Sierra Fujita, Emily Lucid, Lara Salmon, Andrea Soto, and Dorian Wood respond to VALIE EXPORT's work and, simultaneously, to the special location which is the Schindler House. The program is presented in collaboration with homeLA.

The exhibition is made possible thanks to the support of the Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Betsy Greenberg, the Austrian Consul General in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, and the MAK Center's Centennial Council.

MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles

A contemporary, experimental, interdisciplinary center for art and architecture, the MAK Center currently stages exhibitions, MAK Talks, symposia, and presentations in three of the most important houses designed by Austrian-American architect Rudolph M. Schindler: the Schindler House (1922) in West Hollywood, the Fitzpatrick-Leland House (1936), and the Pearl M. Mackey Apartments (1939). New trends and interdisciplinary developments in art and architecture are the focus of the Center's activities. An important aspect of the Center's work is the MAK Center Artists and Architects in Residence Program in the Mackey Apartments—a scholarship program administered by the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Civil Service, and Sport in collaboration with the MAK.

VALIE EXPORT: Embodied opens on 28 February 2024 parallel to the FRIEZE LOS ANGELES international art fair (29 February–3 March 2024) and may be seen until 7 April 2024.

Further information on the exhibition is available at <https://www.makcenter.org/exhibitions/valie-export>



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