

**PRESS INFORMATION,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

Anna Virnich: Hyperdrüse

**Schering Stiftung ■ Unter
den Linden 32–34 ■ 10117
Berlin**

**Exhibition Opening:
September 13, 2019,
6–9 p.m.**

Duration: September 14–
November 25, 2019

Opening hours: Thursday–Monday: 1–7 p.m., free admission



Through her solo exhibition “Hyperdrüse,” the Berlin-based artist Anna Virnich transforms the Project Space of the Schering Stiftung into a multi-sensory experiential space. Smells especially, carefully composed and spreading through the room in a choreographed sequence, form a central element of the large-scale installation. Guiding and accompanying visitors on their way through the installation, they engage with the audience in an affective way.

After “22 – Molecular Communication” by the Norwegian smell researcher and artist Sissel Tolaas, Anna Virnich’s is the second exhibition to put smells and aromas center-stage as part of the Schering Stiftung’s theme year on smell. Virnich’s work with smells, however, is highly subjective. The olfactory compositions used in “Hyperdrüse” are based primarily on the artist’s personal memories and experiences. Moreover, smell is an element that works most effectively in combination with visual, haptic, and acoustic stimuli. Visitors thus enter a room that, similar to a hyperfunctioning organ, offers a wealth and variety of visual and olfactory sensations that stimulate and intoxicate yet also provoke.

In order for the stimuli to be most fully effective, the artist has transformed the Project Space into a cell isolated from its environment. This makes it possible for the visitors to immerse themselves in a work of art that is characterized at first by pleasant surfaces and materials – aromatic oils, beeswax, fabrics – that give off a feeling of comfort and coziness. Together, they form an olfactory and visual walk-in landscape that challenges the senses and allows an immersive experience of the artwork. But this experience is time and again disturbed and disrupted by means of smells and lighting as well as the natural soundscape of the Project Space: a barely perceptible whirring sound. Walking through the installation, visitors experience how the atmosphere initially perceived to be cozy can abruptly change into something rather unpleasant.

The exhibition is accompanied by an artist’s publication with brief texts by Bettina Pause, smell researcher and professor for biological psychology at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. Pause has conducted numerous studies to investigate the implicit influence of smell perception on human behavior.

Anna Virnich (*1984 in Berlin) completed her studies at HBK Braunschweig in 2013. Her solo exhibitions include Drei, Cologne; Proyectos Monclova, Mexico City; Kunstverein Schloss Morsbroich, Leverkusen; Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn; Städtische Galerie, Remscheid; and Künstlerverein Malkasten, Düsseldorf. In addition, she has participated in group exhibitions, including at Galerie Sprüth Magers and Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf; Centre d'Art Contemporaine Chanot, Clamart, France; and Schmela Haus, Düsseldorf. Anna Virnich lives and works in Berlin. In 2010, she received a scholarship from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation). She was one of the finalists for the 2018 Karl Schmidt-Rottluff Scholarship.

Accompanying events at Schering Stiftung:

Scientific lecture: Smells of this World – Insights into odour research“

Dr. Helene Loos, Department Chemistry and Pharmacy at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
November 6, 2019, 6 p.m., Schering Stiftung (Lecture in English)

To participate, please register at: <http://www.scheringstiftung.de/de/duefte-dieser-welt>

Olfactory guided tours with Scent Club Berlin:

October 19, 2019, 4-5:30 p.m. and

November 18, 2019, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Schering Stiftung:

To participate, please register at: anmeldung@scheringstiftung.de

More information:

www.scheringstiftung.de

The exhibition takes place in cooperation with Berlin Art Week and with kind support of Scent Club Berlin.

**BERLIN
ART 11—15 SEP 2019
WEEK**

*SCENT
CLUB
BERLIN*

100% pure natural

@aroma

Photo: Timo Ohler.

For press photos and further information please contact:

Anna Papenburg
Project Manager, Art
Tel: 00 49.30.20 62 29 65
Fax: 00 49.30.20 62 29 61
papenburg@scheringstiftung.de