RAFFAELLA CORTESE

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Monica Bonvicini Biography

Born in Venice in 1965, Monica Bonvicini studied art in Berlin and at Cal Arts, Valencia, CA, USA. From 2003 to 2017 she was teaching Performative Arts and Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. In October 2017 she assumes the professorship for sculpture at the Universität der Künste, Berlin. She lives and works in Berlin.

Monica Bonvicini emerged as visual artist and started exhibiting internationally in the mid-1990s. Her multifaceted practice—which investigates the relationship between architecture, power and gender—is translated into works that question the meaning of making art, the ambiguity of language, the limits and possibilities attached to the ideal of freedom. Dry-humored, direct, and imbued with historical, political and social references, Bonvicini's art never refrains from establishing a critical connection with the sites where it is exhibited, the materials that comprise it, and the roles of spectator and creator. This approach, which has been at the core of her production since her first solo exhibition at the California Institute of the Arts in 1991, has formally evolved over the years without betraying its analytical force and inclination to challenge the viewer's perspective while taking hefty sideswipes at socio-cultural conventions.

Her work has been featured in many prominent biennials, including Busan (2020), Venice (1999, 2001, 2005, 2011, 2015), New Orleans (2008), Gwangju (2006), Istanbul (2003, 2017), La Triennale Paris (2012), Berlin (1998, 2004, 2014).

She has had solo exhibitions at Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany (2022); Bauhaus Dessau, Germany (2022); Kunstmuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland (2022); Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, Austria (2022); Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany (2021); OGR Officine Grandi Riparazioni, Turin, Italy (2019); Belvedere 21, Wien; Austria (2019); Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany (2017); BAL-TIC Center for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2016); Kunsthalle Mainz, Germany (2013); Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany (2012); Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Malága, Malága, Spain (2011); Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany (2011); Frac des Pays de la Loire, France (2009); Kunstmuseum, Basel, Switzerland (2009); Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA (2009); Sculpture-Center, New York, USA (2007); Staedtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach, Germany (2005, 2012); Secession, Wien, Austria (2003); Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK (2003); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2002).

Recent group exhibitions include: & Liberation, Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne, Germany (2024); Il giardino dell'arte, Centro Pecci, Prato, Italy (2022); Minimalism-Maximalism-Mechanissmmm Act 1-Act 2, Art Sonje Center, Seoul, Korea (2022); Punto di equilibrio, MAXXI L'Aquila, Italy (2021); There I Belong. Hammershøi by Elmgreen & Dragset, National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark (2020); States of Mind: Art and American Democracy, Moody Art Center for the Arts, Rice University, Houston, USA (2020); The Street. Where the World Is Made, MAXXI Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy (2018); Women House, La Monnaie de Paris, France, traveled to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, USA (2018).

Among others, Bonvicini's artworks are permanently installed in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, UK; on the waterfront at Bjørvika, before the Den Norske Opera & Ballett House, Oslo, Norway; Weserburg Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, Germany.