

KW

A Year with BLESS January – December 22

Since 2017, KW Institute for Contemporary Art has been hosting the residency format *A Year with...*, a program that facilitates in-depth engagement with an artistic practice through a variety of inward- and outward-facing formats over the course of a year. In 2022, the duo BLESS will take on this program. Desiree Heiss and Ines Kaag have been working together on numerous transdisciplinary projects since 1997. Dubbing themselves 'situation designers', their products blend fashion, art, design, architecture, business and social practice, always aiming to create an equilibrium between mental and physical exertion. Driven by the ambition to create objects for everyday use, BLESS defines her practice and products as a way of life, one built on a firm conviction that the future can be shaped in a way that is active and self-reliant.

In 2022, BLESS will celebrate her 25th anniversary, which KW will take as an opportunity to put the focus on Desiree Heiss and Ines Kaag's visionary products and endeavors. *A Year with BLESS* will renegotiate many of the key issues that lie at the heart of her collaboration, creating an innovative format that seeks to connect life, work, leisure, and exercise. The duo will rethink existing processes and workflows and test them out artistically in different public areas. The one-year collaboration will unfold across three key projects: *BLESS N°72 BLESSlet* at KW; the Adretta-Reuter-intervention in the Ernst-Reuter-Siedlung, where the duo has her Berlin-based studio, and the release of the third book of her own publication series, *BLESS III*.



BLESS N°17 Design Relativators Vacuum Cleaner Chair
(c) BLESS 2002

As part of the participatory installation *BLESS/et*, BLESS will take over KW's Residency Apartment #11 and reimagine the way it is used, both as a place for living and as an experimental workplace. *BLESS/et* will form a habitat equipped with objects, furniture, and everyday objects that BLESS has designed, which will showcase the broad spectrum of the duo's practice and offer unexpected opportunities for everyday activities, for leisure, and for tending to bread-and-butter office tasks. The apartment is meant to be actively used by staff as well as by visitors and visiting artists.

The aim of this repurposing is on the one hand to renegotiate issues relating to the interplay of private and public life, and, on the other, to intently explore health-promoting working conditions—a concern BLESS has been addressing with self-experimente for many years. *BLESS/et* at KW embodies BLESS's quest for a daily rhythm of focus and release in which physical exertion, productivity, and leisure can be experienced and self-regulated in a responsible way within a consciously-designed environment. The focus here is on the integration of sedentary and movement-based production processes with communal and anti-hierarchical ways of handling routines, in a new form of "working commune".

To visit *BLESS N°72 BLESS/et*, please contact us in advance via reservations@kw-berlin.de

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