

Press Kit

Pause: AA Bronson's *Garten der Lüste*

Content

Press Release
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Partner

Press material

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Press Release Berlin, April 25, 2018

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Pause: AA Bronson's Garten der Lüste

April 26–29, 2018

Opening: April 25, 2018, 7 pm

Press preview: April 25, 2018, 11 am

AA Bronson's Garten der Lüste—a 5-day hybrid installation featuring performances and artworks—will inaugurate KW's second exhibition season of 2018 as part of its *Pause* series. *Pause* is envisioned as a platform to punctuate the program by presenting a singular installation for a short period of time in order to bridge relationships between the past, present and future.

AA Bronson (born 1946 in Vancouver) is both artist and curator, subject and object. In this project, Bronson continues his practice of enfolded his community of artists within his own performances and artworks. The project takes Hieronymus Bosch's infamous painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (circa 1500) as its starting point. To analyze Hieronymus Bosch's triptych is an attempt to describe the indescribable and to decipher the indecipherable—an exercise in madness. The project could be seen as a queer adaptation that executes this madness through various spirits and universes.

A pioneer of collaborative and queer visual art practice, AA Bronson is the sole surviving member of the art collective General Idea (1969–94). He has had a long history with political and social issues in art and publishing, and has collaborated with many generations of artists across many disciplines. He is a founder of *FILE Magazine*, Toronto; Art Metropole, Toronto; The NY Art Book Fair, New York; The Institute for Art, Religion and Social Justice, New York; and AA Bronson's *School for Young Shamans*, which is nomadic. In the last decades he has knitted elements from various religions into his work, from Tibetan Buddhism and Shamanism to Ceremonial Magic, and Santeria.

Featuring **AA Bronson** / Collaborations with **Adrian Hermanides**, **Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur**, **Travis Meinolf**, **James Richards**, and **Scott Treleven** / Performances with **Michael Dudeck**, **Richard John Jones**, **Ebe Oke**, and **Chrysanne Stathacos** / Additional works by **Elijah Burgher**, **TM Davy**, **Sholem Krishtalka**, **Chrysanne Stathacos** / and introducing **JX Williams**

AA Bronson's Garten der Lüste will be on view only throughout Gallery Weekend Berlin (April 26–29, 2018). Simultaneously, Esther Schipper, Berlin presents *Catch me if you can! AA Bronson + General Idea, 1968–2018* from April 26 through May 26, 2018.

Pause: AA Bronson's *Garten der Lüste* April 26–29, 2018

Opening: April 25, 2018, 7 pm

AA Bronson's *Garten der Lüste*—a 5-day hybrid installation featuring performances and artworks— inaugurates KW Institute for Contemporary Art's second exhibition season of 2018 and is part of its *Pause* series. *Pause* is envisioned as a platform that punctuates the program by presenting a singular installation for a short period of time in order to bridge relationships between the past, present, and future.

AA Bronson (born 1946, Vancouver) is both an artist and curator, subject and object, in this project, which developed out of his practice of integrating his community of artists into his performances and artworks. The project takes Hieronymus Bosch's famous painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (*Garten der Lüste*, circa 1500) as its starting point. A pioneer of collaborative and queer visual art practice, AA Bronson is the sole surviving member of the art collective *General Idea* (1969–94). He has a long history of involvement with political and social issues in art and publishing, and has collaborated with many generations of artists across many disciplines. He is a founder of *FILE Magazine*, Toronto; *Art Metropole*, Toronto; *The NY Art Book Fair*, New York; *The Institute for Art, Religion and Social Justice*, New York; and AA Bronson's *School for Young Shamans*, which is nomadic. In the last decades, he has knitted elements from various religions into his work, from Tibetan Buddhism and Shamanism to Ceremonial Magic and Santería.

The installation in KW's ground floor and main hall brings together collaborative works developed over the past ten years into a single ensemble featuring four tents that accommodate inhabitation and intimacy. The centerpiece *Folly* (2015), a collaboration with Adrian Hermanides and Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur, is based on the famous Japanese Zen garden of Ryoanji, in Kyoto. It consists of a red-and-white, striped carnival tent and a group of objects arranged on a wide rectangular bed of mugwort. Inside the circus-like tent hangs a brass lamp casting orange light onto the organza interior, which is exposed to view through the entrance. Surrounding the tent are two dynastic Chinese urns standing on interlocking wooden plinths, a family of stuffed deer, a Isamu Noguchi paper floor lamp, and a mannequin dressed in a linen shaman coat adorned with a collar of moose antlers and quartz. *Folly* is enriched by the ambient sound work *FIELD* (2015) created by artist Ebe Oke. Oke also appears within *Folly* at intervals, performing his vocals to the sound of the pre-recorded music.

Tent for Healing (2013), a collaboration with Travis Meinolf, is a large rectangular tent woven from colorfully striped cotton and wool. Inside, there is a chaise lounge covered with pillows and blankets for the healer. His assistants (Richard John Jones and Spencer Carter) serve tea to guests. Various objects populate and animate the tent: a tea set, chocolate, fruit, nuts, ritual objects, tarot cards, books, mistletoe, and small gifts from visitors. A vintage African ceremonial figure watches over the space from one corner. Dressed in a floor-length ceremonial robe with red-and-white geometric patterns, the healer, AA Bronson, engages with the guests. The tent can only be visited by appointment, making it a private environment separated from the public exhibition space outside. Visitors are asked to bring a gift for the healer, something that is difficult for them to give away.

Treehouse (2015) is a tent built on a simple structure of ash wood, hung with woven wool and linen fabrics in dark green, brown, and blue. In front of the *Treehouse*, a taxidermied fox stands on its hind legs in conversation with a crow, illustrating Aesop's fable. The tent and the animals are arranged on a bed of dried, shredded mugwort. During the installation process, AA Bronson spreads the mugwort as a meditative action, a secret performance.

The small green striped tent *Cabine* (2008), a collaboration with Scott Treleaven, resembles a 19th century fortuneteller's booth with its silky material and harlequin styling. It is at once a changing cabin on the Lido and a private booth in a gay sauna. Its front curtains are raised, creating a stage-like opening. Every day around noon, artist Michael Dudeck sits inside *Cabine* and performs an intense durational work. In this fifth iteration of the performance *Fish Scroll (Yaldaboath)*, he inhabits the sorcerer's tent for three hours per day, body painted, wearing prosthetic breasts, holding a large dead fish in his arms while chanting an invented language.

Pythia Rose Mandala (2017) consists of a large floor mandala made of thousands of rose petals. Artist Chrysanne Stathacos will construct the mandala throughout the preview and opening of the exhibition. At the exhibition's close, she will present a special performance in which the mandala is deconstructed and the petals scattered.

Furthermore, several works by AA Bronson's friends are distributed throughout the space. JX Williams, a queer black witch from New Orleans, repurposes household implements as ritual objects. TM Davy's painting *AA Bronson in the Magic Forest* presents the artist naked and lit by candlelight in the cruising woods of Fire Island, New York, while Elijah Burgher's portrait presents Bronson surrounded by acolytes, most of whom are Burgher himself. Sholem Krishtalka's miniature gouache is a dark rendition of *Folly* itself.

Partner

Esther Schipper



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Media partner:

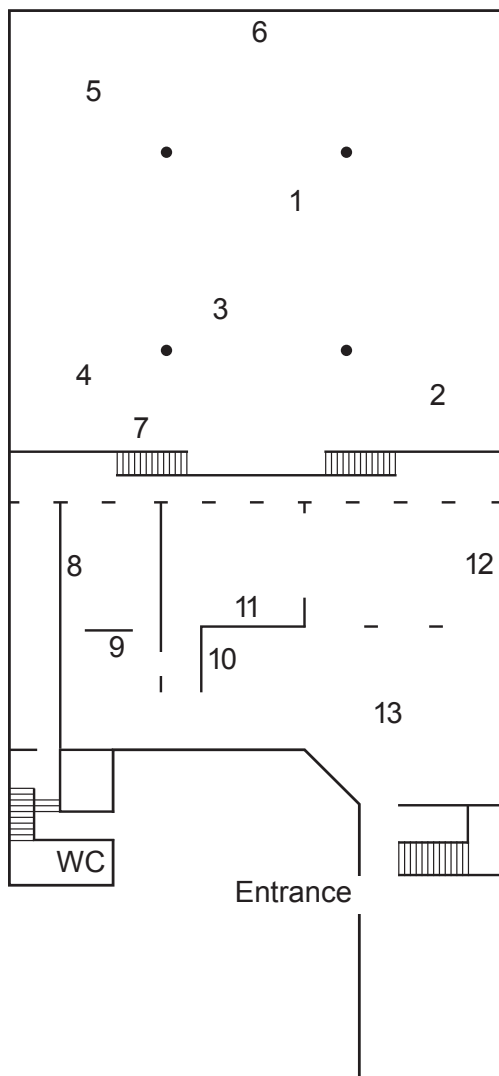
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AA Bronson's Garten der Lüste



1
AA Bronson in collaboration with Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur and Adrian Hermanides, with an audio component titled *FIELD* by Ebe Oke
Folly, 2015/2016
Mixed media installation (tent of canvas, semi-organza, styrofoam, foam rubber, brass hanging lamp, ash wood and steel armature; bed of dried mugwort; two antique Chinese ceramic pots on wood stands; a family of stuffed deer; a standing lamp of paper by Isamu Noguchi, formerly used by AA Bronson in his home; a linen robe by Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur on a display manikin with a neckpiece of moose antler, quartz crystal, and leather; ambient audio by Ebe Oke)
Overall dimensions: 475 x 600 x 1600 cm, 467 x 221 x 221 cm (tent)
Courtesy the artist and Esther Schipper, Berlin

2
AA Bronson in collaboration with Travis Meinolf
Tent for Healing, 2013
Mixed media installation with ash frame, woven wool and cotton fabrics, custom-designed cotton robe by Mark Jan Krayenhoff van de Leur, found carpets, furniture and African sculpture, various objects contributed by viewers, including a performative element
Overall dimensions: 350 x 250 x 250 cm
Courtesy the artist and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

3
Chrysanne Stathacos
Pythia's Rose Mandala, 2017
Mixed media (Mirror, rose petals, gold skeleton Bodhi leaf, bronze Delphic tripod replica hand-painted by the artist)
Dimensions: 100 cm in diameter (mirror), 20 x 10 x 0,1 cm (leaf), 30 x 20 x 20 cm (tripod);
Overall dimensions: 350 cm diameter
Courtesy the artist and The Breeder, Athens

4
AA Bronson
Treehouse, 2015
Mixed media installation (Ash wood frame with wool and linen woven textiles, taxidermied fox and magpie on tree trunk, bed of dried mugwort)
Dimensions: 225 x 130 x 130 cm (tent), 146 x 42 x 103 cm (taxidermy)
Courtesy the artist and Maureen Paley, London

5
AA Bronson in collaboration with Scott Treleven
Cabine, 2008
Mixed media installation (Cotton, rayon, wood, gold leaf)
Dimensions: 199 x 107 x 107 cm
Courtesy the artist and Esther Schipper, Berlin

6
TM Davy
AA in the Magic Forest, 2015
Oil on linen
Dimensions: 172,7 x 200,6 cm
Collection AA Bronson

7
Sholem Krishtalka
Salzburg, Folly, 2015
Gouache on paper
Dimensions: 30 x 40 cm
Collection AA Bronson

8
JX Williams
A Stick to Hit the Devil #3, 2008
Sledge hammer, gaffer tape, rubber-coated metal
Dimensions: 60 x 16 x 7 cm
Courtesy AA Bronson

9

JX Williams

A Stick to Hit the Devil #2, 2008

Sledge hammer, gaffer tape, rubber-coated metal

Dimensions: 80 x 18 x 8 cm

Courtesy AA Bronson

10

Elijah Burgher

The Danger in Waiting, 2008

Acrylic on canvas

Dimensions: 96 x 91 cm

Collection AA Bronson

11

JX Williams

Spirit Sticks (objects to be grasped), 2008

Set of seven found objects in wood and steel

Dimensions variable

Courtesy AA Bronson and Maureen Paley, London

12

JX Williams

A Stick to Hit the Devil #1, 2008

Sledge hammer, gaffer tape, rubber coated metal

Dimensions: 91,5 x 22 x 14 cm

Courtesy AA Bronson and Maureen Paley, London

13

JX Williams

Untitled (Bull Chain), 2018

Mixed media floor installation

Dimensions variable

Courtesy AA Bronson and James Richards /

Cabinet Gallery, London