



Press release

Blow Up! The Growth of Things

December 10, 2022 – March 19, 2023

Press Conference: Thursday, December 8, 2022, 11:15 am

Curators: Holger Broeker, Elena Engelbrechter

With the exhibition *Blow Up! The Growth of Things*, the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg will present its more than eighty recent donations from December 10, 2022 to March 19, 2023. Like a rhizome, the exhibition *Blow Up!* is permeated with the most diverse themes of our time, which in the broadest sense deal with *the growth of things*.

The exhibition enables surprising encounters with works by Phyllida Barlow, Gary Hill, Daniel Boudinet, and Mariela Scafati, as well as by Rodney McMillian, Olga Koumoundouros, Otto Piene, and K. O. Götz. With their broad medial diversity, the works open up a stimulating exploration of psychologically and socially charged spaces, landscapes, and discourses. The play with different sizes, as well as with (maximum) distance and (intimate) proximity pervades the entire exhibition. In addition to the question of the self-positioning of the individual, *Blow Up!* aims to criticize evolved social structures and questions the concept of territorial boundaries, the overcoming of which is often paid for with one's life. In a variety of ways, the new works in the collection negotiate, critique, ironize, and satirize outdated paradigms of growth. The focus is therefore on the temporal and spatial dimensions of growth.

“Along with the impressive quantitative expansion of the collection, the exhibition also focuses on its qualitative and thematic growth. The many works that have come to us at the museum in the last two years thanks to generous donations support us in the strategic further development of our collection. We are very pleased to have further internationally important positions such as Phyllida Barlow and Jordan Wolfson represented in the collection and to now be able to present them to the public—in some cases for the first time,” explains Andreas Beitin, Director of the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg.

“It is simply wonderful that, in this time of scarce resources, we are able to further develop our collection with such high-caliber works. These include not only Otto Piene's early pneumatic sculpture *Fleurs du Mal* from 1969, but also a remarkable number of works that deal with current socio-critical and political issues,” states Holger Broeker, Head of Collection and co-curator of the exhibition.

“In addition to the opportunity to deepen the existing collection positions, it is a special privilege that among the many new donations there are several works or entire series that make it possible to show the work of additional artists in a larger context,” comments Elena Engelbrechter, co-curator of the exhibition.



Almost all the photographs, installations, sculptures, and paintings on display are being shown for the first time at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. They expand the collection of more than 900 works with further non-European and female positions. So soon after the exhibition *Images of Humanity* (October 30, 2021 – April 10, 2022), which presented the new acquisitions from 2019 to 2020 in a different thematic framework, the exhibition *Blow Up! The Growth of Things* is another highlight in the series of thematic exhibitions from the permanent collection.

Artists represented in *Blow Up! The Growth of Things*

Phyllida Barlow, Daniel Boudinet, Nathan Carter, Alain Fleischer, K. O. Götz, Wynne Greenwood, Gary Hill, Jürgen Klauke, Olga Koumoundouros, Jochen Lempert, Fred Lonidier, René Lück, Michel Majerus, Rodney McMillian, Otto Piene, Adam Putnam, Mariela Scafati, Tejal Shah, Stefan Thiel, Goran Tomcic, Johannes Wohnseifer, Jordan Wolfson

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