

Heidi Harsieber
Bernadette Huber
Monika, Herbert, and forever more they wait

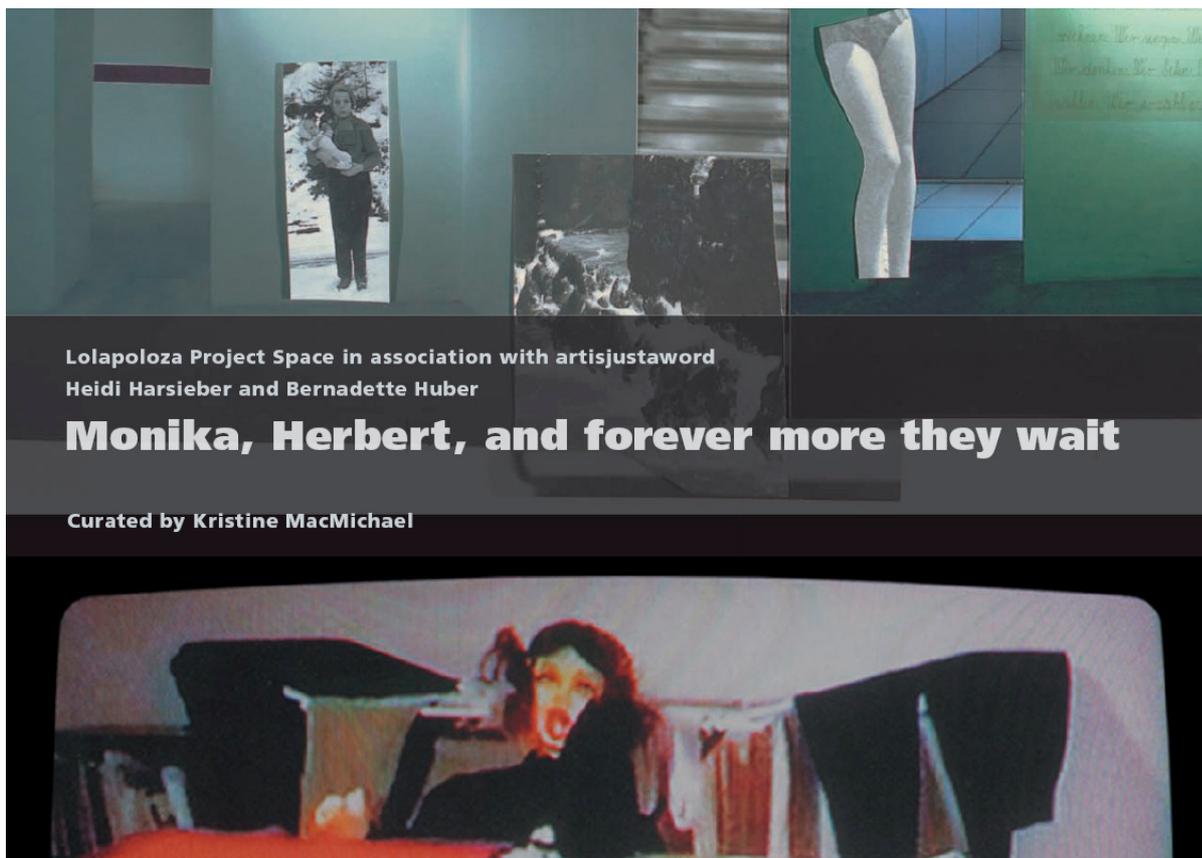
3 – 28 September 2007

Opening Night: Saturday, 1 September, 6-8pm

with a performance by Viennese composer/jazz musician, Franz Koglmann

Artist Talk: Saturday, 1 September, 11am-12noon at OVADA

Curated by Kristine MacMichael, BSc, MA



Lolapoloza Project Space is proud to present the first UK exhibition of artists Bernadette Huber and Heidi Harsieber. Through the female experience, both artists explore issues involving gender identity in their work.

Harsieber's conceptual photography – mysterious, dream-like reconstructions where she assembles interior spaces from photographic fragments – includes elements of aging, grief and desire. Harsieber's photcollages are from a series entitled *Und immer warten sie, warten in mitten der Gelegenheiten* (*and forever more they wait, waiting amidst opportunities*). In this series, she constructs rooms from photographic fragments in which memories are embedded. Some of these images are the remains of photos that she has taken over the years, while others are excerpts from her primary school textbooks. In the compositions, the child is Harsieber as a young girl, photographed by her father. Each of these photographic elements haunts the viewer, reminding us that we are all running out of time.

Harsieber has worked as an artist since 1970 and has exhibited in Austria, New York, Italy, Tenerife and Gran Canaria.

Video artist Huber (www.bernadettehuber.at) investigates sexual roles in a humorous, voyeuristic manner, where the subject is torn between fiction, fantasy and daily routine. An inflatable latex sex doll is the leading lady of the video installation *Monika II*. The viewer is voyeur, watching as Monika is torn between her own dreams and life as it really is. She is both lover and plaything; she is, in the words of Jerry Hall's mum, "a maid in the living room, a cook in the kitchen and a whore in the bedroom". Monika engages in simple housewifely duties, but ultimately, her everyday is a nightmare.

In the video *Herbert*, a man is shown repeatedly changing his underpants – thongs – and commenting on his body while doing so, "Schönes gelbes Höschen, gelbes kommt (Pretty yellow skivvies. Yellow's in style!)" Herbert's masculine eroticism is expanded to show a humorous facet of his preoccupation with self-image and vanity.

In addition to these two videos, Huber also exhibits digital prints bonded to small Plexiglas panels from *Monika I*. They are snapshots of Monika inside the washing machine, being laundered to death!

Since 1994, Huber has exhibited in Austria, Germany, The Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, and The Netherlands.

On 1 September, OVADA (www.ovada.org.uk) in central Oxford will host an Artist Talk with Huber and Harsieber from 11am-12noon and then the Opening Night festivities will run from 6-8pm at Lolapoloza Project Space where Viennese composer and jazz musician, Franz Koglmann, will delight and entertain with a live performance.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our Sponsors:

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