



**MAK**

Press Release

**Exhibition Series NEW LOOK**  
**#3: KERSTIN VON GABAIN city of broken furniture**

Opening	Tuesday, 19 March 2013, 7 p.m.
Venue	MAK Gallery MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	20 March–26 May 2013
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Free admission on Tuesdays, 6–10 p.m.

Kerstin von Gabain will be presenting out-of-the-ordinary sculptural modifications of her own furniture in the solo exhibition *NEW LOOK #3: KERSTIN VON GABAIN city of broken furniture* at the MAK, which begins on 20 March 2013. The artist (\* 1979 in Palo Alto, California; lives and works in Vienna) brings supposed internal injuries and abnormalities into plain view on her objects' outer surfaces. In a way that is playful and reminiscent of medical treatment, she bandages chair's backs and legs; the overall atmosphere at her intervention in the MAK Gallery quite deliberately recalls the aesthetics of a sanatorium. Von Gabain completes this impression with a series of photographs focusing on processes of classification, archiving, and documentation.

Aspects of deviation from the norm also concern the artist with respect to the seating furniture from the MAK Furniture and Woodwork Collection that she chose to photograph for *city of broken furniture*. The medium of photography, which can be instrumentalized for purposes such as phenomenological classification, is of interest to von Gabain particularly when dealing with archival practice. In creating this series of works, the artist employed classical techniques of pictorial composition used in studio and portrait photography during the 19th century. And in her selection of humorous object titles such as *Midget/Giant*, *6 Verbrecher* [6 Criminals], *Syphilis*, and *Die Hysterikerin* [The Hysteric], she likewise plays with the 19th-century principle of pathological systematization.

The artist has created uncanny transitional objects specifically for this exhibition—these appear as surreal hermaphrodites, alternating between the inanimate and the animate. Their supposed anthropomorphization is expressed via quasi-medical

procedures, symptom-specific titles and a stringently stylized photographic gaze. The humanity, liveliness, and domestication of cultural goings-on in an institutional setting are phenomena that receive consistent attention throughout von Gabain's artistic work and photographic practice.

*KERSTIN VON GABAIN city of broken furniture* is the third solo presentation in the MAK exhibition series *NEW LOOK*, in which four Vienna-based artists deal with ways of defining and presenting applied art. This series was kicked off with the exhibition *BENJAMIN HIRTE the classic mob ballet* (12 September–25 November 2012), followed by *KATHI HOFER craftivism* (19 December 2012–3 March 2013); the concluding exhibition will feature Verena Dengler, who is to show her work in the MAK Gallery from 19 June to 6 October 2013.

An exhibition talk with Kerstin von Gabain and curator Janina Falkner will take place on Tuesday, 9 April 2013 at 6 p.m. in the MAK Gallery.

Press materials and images are available for download at [www.MAK.at/presse](http://www.MAK.at/presse).

Press Fact Sheet

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Curator	Janina Falkner, MAK Collection of Contemporary Art
MAK Admission	€ 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50 / family ticket: € 11 / free admission for children and young people under age 19
Supporting Program	Photo workshops for small children and school students from 8 to 16 together with the artist and the exhibition curator. Registration and information: Gabriele Fabiankowitsch, Head of MAK Educational Program and Guided Tours, T +43 1 711 36-298, <a href="mailto:education@MAK.at">education@MAK.at</a>
Exhibition Talk with the Artist and the Curator	Tuesday, 9 April 2013, 6 p.m. MAK Gallery
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Vienna, 20 February 2013