

Sharon Lockhart | The Future Should Always Be Better

18 April – 8 August 2021

The American artist Sharon Lockhart (* 1964, Norwood, Massachusetts) will present a glowing neon sign that reads "The Future Should Always Be Better" on the facade of the Kestner Gesellschaft. The statement will have the effect of an advertising slogan facing the square in front of the building. The slogan seems highly relevant to the current moment during the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time, the artist addresses society's expectation of a better future.

Sharon Lockhart deals with social issues in her conceptual works. In a diverse practice that includes installation, photography, film, painting and sculpture, Lockhart creates compelling and complex interactions between the various media and forms she employs, histories she encounters, and the communities and people she collaborates with. With this installation for the Kestner Gesellschaft, the artist, internationally known for her films and photographs, is turning to a new medium for the first time: neon lettering.

Sharon Lockhart studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California. In 2017, Lockhart represented Poland at the 57th Venice Biennale with her multidisciplinary project, *Little Review*. Solo exhibitions include: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna; The Jewish Museum, New York; Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius, Lithuania; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Fondazione Fotografia Modena, Italy; Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal; and Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland. Lockhart's films have been presented in the New York Film Festival, Vienna International Film Festival, FID Marseille, Berlin Film Festival, and Sundance Film Festival. Lockhart has been awarded the Herb Alpert Award, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, D.A.A.D. Artist in Residence Fellowship, Berlin, Mike Kelley Foundation Artist Project Grant, and a Radcliffe Fellowship at Harvard University, among others. As a professor, she has taught at the University of Southern California's Roski School of Art and Design and at the California Institute of the Arts. Lockhart lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

Curator: Adam Budak

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