

Ana Roldán - "NO"

27.8 - 1.10.2016

Opening: Friday 26 August 2016, 6pm

annex14 is delighted to be able to invite you to another solo exhibition of works by the Mexican artist Ana Roldán, who lives in Zurich.

In his introduction to the exhibition "Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin American Today", which took place at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2014, the curator Pablo León de la Barra referred to that continent's common formative history: more than three hundred years of colonialism, a magnificent pre-Columbian heritage, an independent Latin American modernism, military dictatorships and socio-revolutionary movements. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that traces of that rich cultural and political heritage are also to be found in Ana Roldán's oeuvre - as a thematic, formal and material basis and as a treasure trove of conflicting experience.

It is surely for this reason that her works repeatedly exhibit a subversive handling of exoticisms of the colonialist kind, like her photograms of palm leaves, for example, the *Constructions* of 2014-2016, in which allusions to that Latin American modernism simultaneously shine through. Ana Roldán also has a critical, analytical eye for identity-forming constructions. She shares this view with many artists from former colonial countries. Therefore her multipart mirror-screen *Lacking the Real*, 2016, which splinters the exhibition space into countless facets, is a sensitive metaphor for the brittleness and complexity of identities today.

Works like *No*, 2016, from which the exhibition takes its title, are more oriented around a philosophy of language philosophy, as is the 2016 series of neon works, *Negative Bodies*, 2016. Here Ana Roldán uses various rhetorical stylistic devices, such as negation, the icon and the *pars pro toto*, for example, in *Elsewhere*, 2016. Such devices lend themselves to evoking shifts in the meanings of terms or contents, as well as to developing a space for the absent, concealed and repressed to get visible and perceptible - be it of a historical, political, social, cultural-historical or individual kind.

Elisabeth Gerber