



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

LANDESMUSEUM FÜR MODERNE  
KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR  
STIFTUNG ÖFFENTLICHEN RECHTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Berlin, 9 February 2017

### John Bock In the Moloch of the Presence of Being 24.02–21.08.2017

Press conference: 23.02, 11 am, opening: 23.02, 7 pm



John Bock, *Der magische Krug*,  
2013, © John Bock, courtesy Sprüth  
Magers, photo: Martin Schlecht

The Berlin artist John Bock (\* 1965) has created his installation *In the Moloch of the Presence of Being* especially for the Berlinische Galerie, incorporating several of his existing works and film projections. This is the first time the globetrotting artist has staged a major exhibition in a Berlin museum, following the show *FischGrätenMelkStand* at the Temporäre Kunsthalle Berlin which attracted so much attention in 2010. *In the Moloch of the Presence of Being* offers some insights into his current work.

John Bock is a performance artist and film maker who moreover sculpts, draws and writes. The opulent display at the Berlinische Galerie is at once a freak show, a theatre stage, an experimental laboratory and a cinema, and overwhelming in its baroque abundance of meanings. The objects, props and costumes which play a part in the proceedings, whether on film or as part of the live performance, mutate in Bock's cosmos into unpredictable creatures, swelling, hatching, sprouting tentacles and seeking contact with the spectator. Every stage along the trail tells its own story. Together they create a circuit for visitors to circumnavigate in a spirit of discovery, becoming a part of the show as they go.

One of the works included here is *Der Pappenheimer* (2013/2017), a sprawling, complex spatial installation. Olfactory stimuli, sound, film and pieces of set combine into a narrative that revolves around Casanova and a stone sculpture reminiscent of the Golem. Like his individual works, the show as a whole blends different media, items and installations to form a bizarre microcosm, symbolising the world but ultimately orbiting the artist. This is John Bock's vision of the absurdity of things, celebrated with relish and revealed in a grotesque and mischievous pageant.

Last year, the Berlinische Galerie acquired one of the artist's key works for its collection: the installation *Cowwidinok* (2015). The associated film of the same name will be on show in the IBB Video Space along with other movies by the artist. On the evening of the opening and during the Gallery Weekend, this exhibition will become an arena for live performance when the artist is joined by actors, transforming the exhibition into a huge spectacle. Along for the ride will be Lars Eidinger, Bibiana Beglau, Laurenz Leky and Kris Limbach.



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## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

**Opening with performances** by John Bock, Lars Eidinger, Lisa Müller-Trede, Laurenz Leky and Kris Limbach

Thu, 23.02.2017, 7 pm, admission free

**Performance** by John Bock and others in the exhibition

Sat, 29.04.2017, 4 pm, a Gallery Weekend event, admission free

### Curator tours

Mon 27.02, 03.04 2 pm, included in the museum ticket

### Public guided tours in English

Mon 06.03, 07.08 3 pm, tour is included in Happy Monday admission

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## ACCREDITATION

Please return by 16.02.2017 to [presse@berlinischegalerie.de](mailto:presse@berlinischegalerie.de) or

**FAX: (030) 789 02 730**

I would like accreditation for:

- the **press conference followed by a tour** of the exhibition  
“John Bock: In the Moloch of the Presence of Being” on **Thursday, 23.02 at 11 am**  
in the Berlinische Galerie.
- the **opening** of the exhibition “John Bock: In the Moloch of the Presence of Being”  
on **Thursday, 23.02 at 7 pm** in the Berlinische Galerie.
- Unfortunately I cannot attend.
- Please send me more information.

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