

# RICHARD SALTOUN

## Viennese Season: Feminism

### VALIE EXPORT & Friedl Kubelka

#### Exhibition dates:

10 April – 23 May, 2014 (PV 9<sup>th</sup> April h. 6-8:30pm)

Richard Saltoun Gallery announce the second of their two-part series of Viennese art: Feminism.

Following on from Part I: Actionism, Richard Saltoun will present the work of VALIE EXPORT and Friedl Kubelka. Both artists posited their art at the centre of artistic debates of subjects of gender, the body, and politics. The photographic images and films that result from their practices are presented through the lens of a personal reflective awareness of the body.

Seminal works to be exhibited include *Smart / Export II*, VALIE EXPORT's iconic self-portrait of 1967/70 in which she holds a package of rebranded cigarettes. Born Waltraud Lehner, she created her artists' name based on Smart Export, this brand of cigarettes she was smoking at the time.

Kubelka will present her celebrated *Jahreportraits* (Year Portraits): a project begun in 1972, in which she photographed herself daily over the period of a year and has repeated the process every five years since. Key examples of this series will be exhibited alongside her *Pin-ups*, 1971-1974. These intimate staged self-portraits, taken by Kubelka in Paris and Vienna, directly confront the viewer in their adoption of the 'erotic'.

EXPORT and Kubelka were both included in *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution* (MoCA, LA, 2007) and *elles@centrepompidou*, Centre George Pompidou (2009). This is the first time they will be exhibited alongside one another in the UK.

#### **VALIE EXPORT** (b. 1940, Linz, Austria)

EXPORT's iconic work *Touch Cinema* (1968), in which she constructed a Styrofoam box and placed it over her chest, inviting passersby to reach in and touch her breasts, still resonates for its shock-value and use of experimental mediums. A recipient of the Grand Gold Decoration for Services to the Republic of Austria (2010), her work was included in the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009). Solo exhibitions include Centre George Pompidou, Paris, (2008) and Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria (2011).

#### **Friedl Kubelka (vom Gröller)** (b. 1946, London, UK)

Born in London to parents seeking political refuge, Kubelka spent her childhood in East Berlin before her parents settled in Vienna. She studied industrial photography at the Graphic Instruction and Research Institute, Vienna, from 1965 to 1969. She later founded her own 'School of Artistic Photography' in the city (1990), and the School for Independent Film (2010). She was awarded the State Prize for Photography in 2005, Austria's most prestigious photography award, and has had solo exhibitions at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (1980), Fotogalerie, Vienna (2004), and the Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam (2005).

**Exhibition and sales inquiries** - email [niamh@richardsaltoun.com](mailto:niamh@richardsaltoun.com)

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## **Feminism film evening: Friedl Kubelka**

**Thursday 10 April 2014**

**8pm (doors open at 6:30pm)**

A film evening dedicated to Friedl Kubelka, to coincide with *Viennese Season: Feminism - VALIE EXPORT and Friedl Kubelka*.

Friedl Kubelka vom Gröller – as she is referred to when discussing her films – is best known for her conceptual and serial photographs, but she began making film in the late 1960s. The last ten years have been a prolific period of artistic production. Her early, static filmic portraits *Erwin, Toni, Ilse* (1968/69) will be screened along recent films from this past decade.

RSVP to [giulia@richardsaltoun.com](mailto:giulia@richardsaltoun.com)

### **Visitor Information**

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**Gallery Hours:** Monday to Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm or by appointment

**Nearest tube:** Oxford Circus and Great Portland Street.