

WEEK 1

Noémi Barbaglia
Marianne Berenhaut
Gerhard Richter

For the first week of STORAGE SPACE, one of the most iconic works from the collection is on display: Gerhard Richter's "Küchenstuhl" from 1965 (acquired 1967). Richter (*1932) received the "junger westen" prize at Kunsthalle Recklinghausen in 1967, Germany's oldest art award after WWII. One of his earliest works, the mundane motif of a simple chair continues to convey a certain uncanniness that reflects German post-war society, imbued with emptiness, suppressed guilt, and a retreat into the domestic sphere to block out the horrors of the past.

The kitchen chair is paired with Marianne Berenhaut's (*1934) installation "S'en va en guerre – Fer à repasser (Vie privée series)" (1996, acquired 2024) which explores the artistic potential of the everyday in similar yet distinct ways. Berenhaut, an artist of the same generation with a completely different background than Richter, arranges here historical and more recent found kitchen and household objects made of metal. She refers equally to domestic labor and the way seemingly innocent objects almost come to life, forming groups and, like animated beings, start behaving like a pack of animals. Berenhaut's playfulness and aesthetic depth with the everyday are exceptional and unparalleled.

These works are joined by an unexpected bell "Untitled" (2021, acquired 2024) by Noémi Barbaglia (*1993). Her objects, made of glass fiber and epoxy resin, are constantly dissolving and fraying. While the original bell was supposedly made of metal—resonating with Berenhaut's materiality and Richter's sense of absence—the negative form we see lying on the floor is soft and unstable, apart from the small magnets one discovers at second glance. Her objects seem to perpetually question their own shape and existence. As such, Barbaglia's works appear to stem from both a distant past and a yet-to-come future.

Altogether, this first of eight shows brings together a bell, pans, irons, and a kitchen chair by artists whose lives and artistic practices span almost an entire century.

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STORAGE SPACE

The collection of Kunsthalle Recklinghausen in Antwerp
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