



CARO SUERKEMPER

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Grace and Dignity



Caro Suerkemper – Grace and Dignity

“For the pious, the law of the Lord; for the profane, the law of his looks.” Once upon a time, “grace” was a full-blooded word, an object of desire, a joy worth having. Later, it acquired an absent quality, pleasant but mindless. La Rochefoucauld, the moralist, spoke of *“je ne sais quoi”* – I can’t pin it down. Grace had a secret symmetry, based on unknown rules. Then came domestication. Grace was nice, attractive, charming. But often it was insipid, like the porcelain figurines popular as table decor in the 17th and 18th centuries, which degenerated into bric-a-brac.

What of dignity? This belonged to a mindset of inner and external worth. Originally it denoted social rank. In time it came to mean the *habitus* of people of intellectual and moral autonomy, whose intrinsic value came across, like their right to self-esteem and to be respected. Dignity stood aloof. As Milton put it:

*“Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth,
That would be wooed, and not unsought be won.”*

Where rituals become a laughing stock, the mockers become betrayers of the passions of the subject of their ridicule. What passion could be more arousing than this self-surrender, this yielding to bondage, this over-response to self which is tantamount to worship?

At work, the artist listens to cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach as she sets out to discover grace and dignity in the „immoral.“ Her portrayals are commonly dubbed pornographic, and the Greek *pornea* means sexual immorality. The term might be thought old-fashioned or innocent, like the smiles of some of her figurines.

These figures are not reflected in the gaze of the other person, but only in spaces which cast their own colours back at them. So they need the mercy sung of in the Bach cantata „Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen“ (Gladly Shall I Bear the Cross – BWV 56). The artist sees this as an ideal, at the moment *“when the raging deep is stilled at last.”*

Suddenly a spiritual space opens amid practices classed as secularized sexuality. Contrary to all expectation, it comes precisely where it is least welcome, because it would disturb unhindered pleasure. A *skandalon*, indeed.



untitled · 2006 · gouache on paper · 40 x 28 cm









W29-2007 · gouache on paper · 39 x 29,2cm
P5-2009 · ceramics · height 62cm









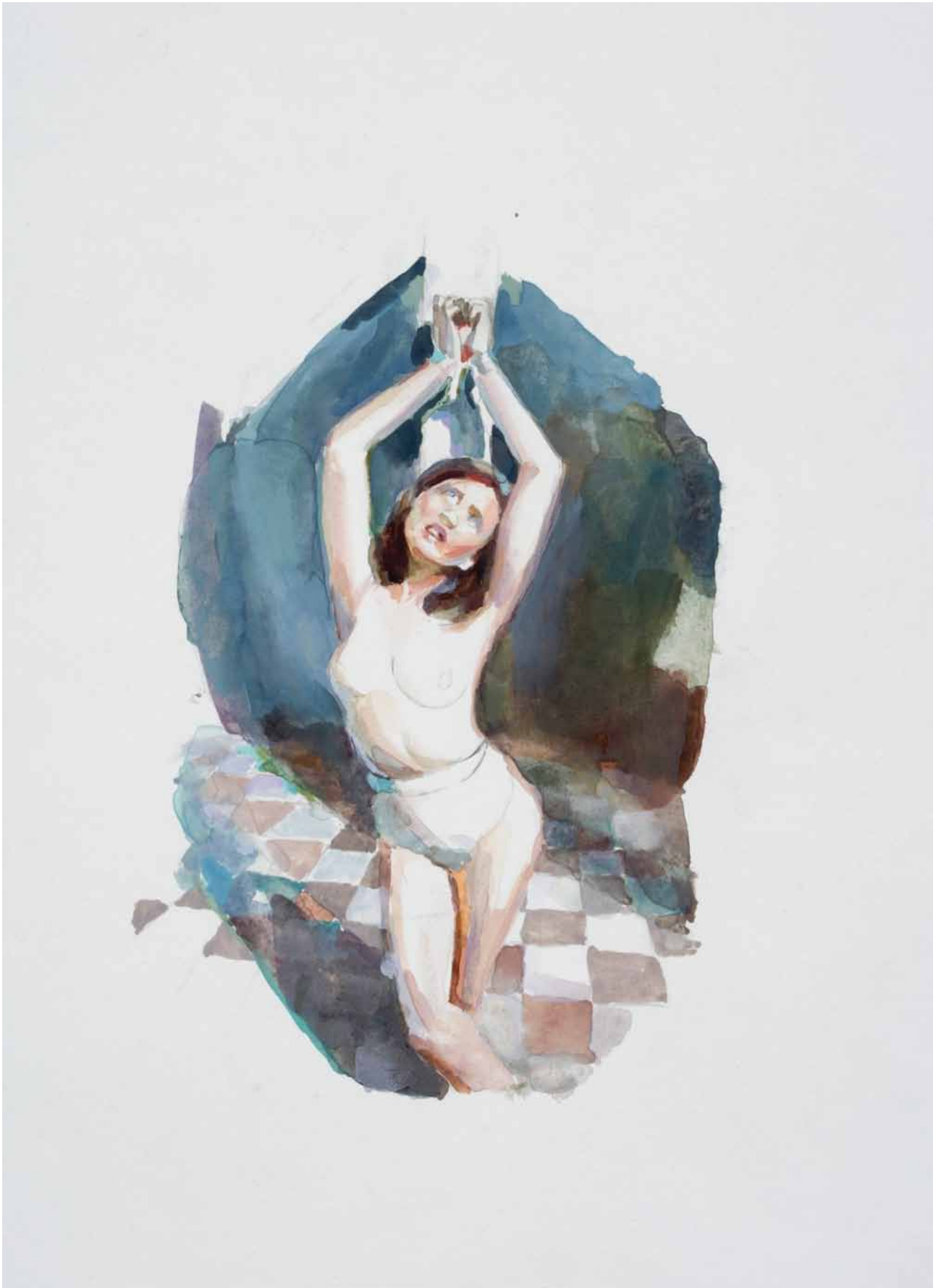




W14-2009 · gouache on paper · 32 x 24 cm

untitled · 2006 · bronze · silk dress · height 44 cm each





untitled · 2006 · gouache on paper · 30,8 x 28,6 cm



W9-2008 · gouache on paper · 31,2x23,2cm







gouaches on paper: W25-2007 · 95,4 x 63,7cm | W12-2008 · 60 x 40cm





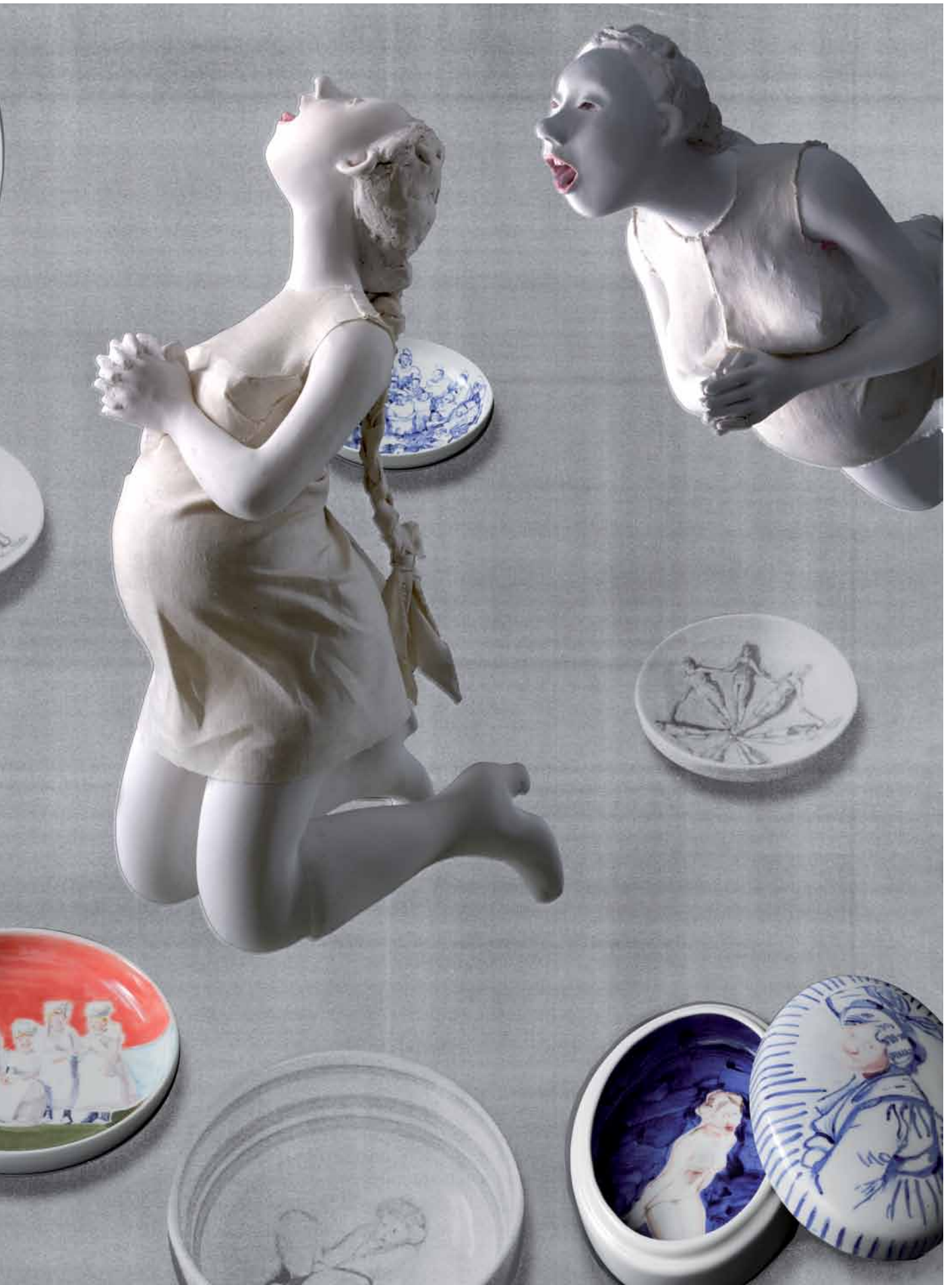




P1-2008 · ceramics · height 34 cm · Ø 40 cm | P2-2008 · ceramics · height 34 cm · Ø 43 cm







photomontage previous double page:
plates and bowls · 2006 · ceramics with underglaze paint; sculptures: untitled · 2006 · plaster, wire and fabrics · 47cm





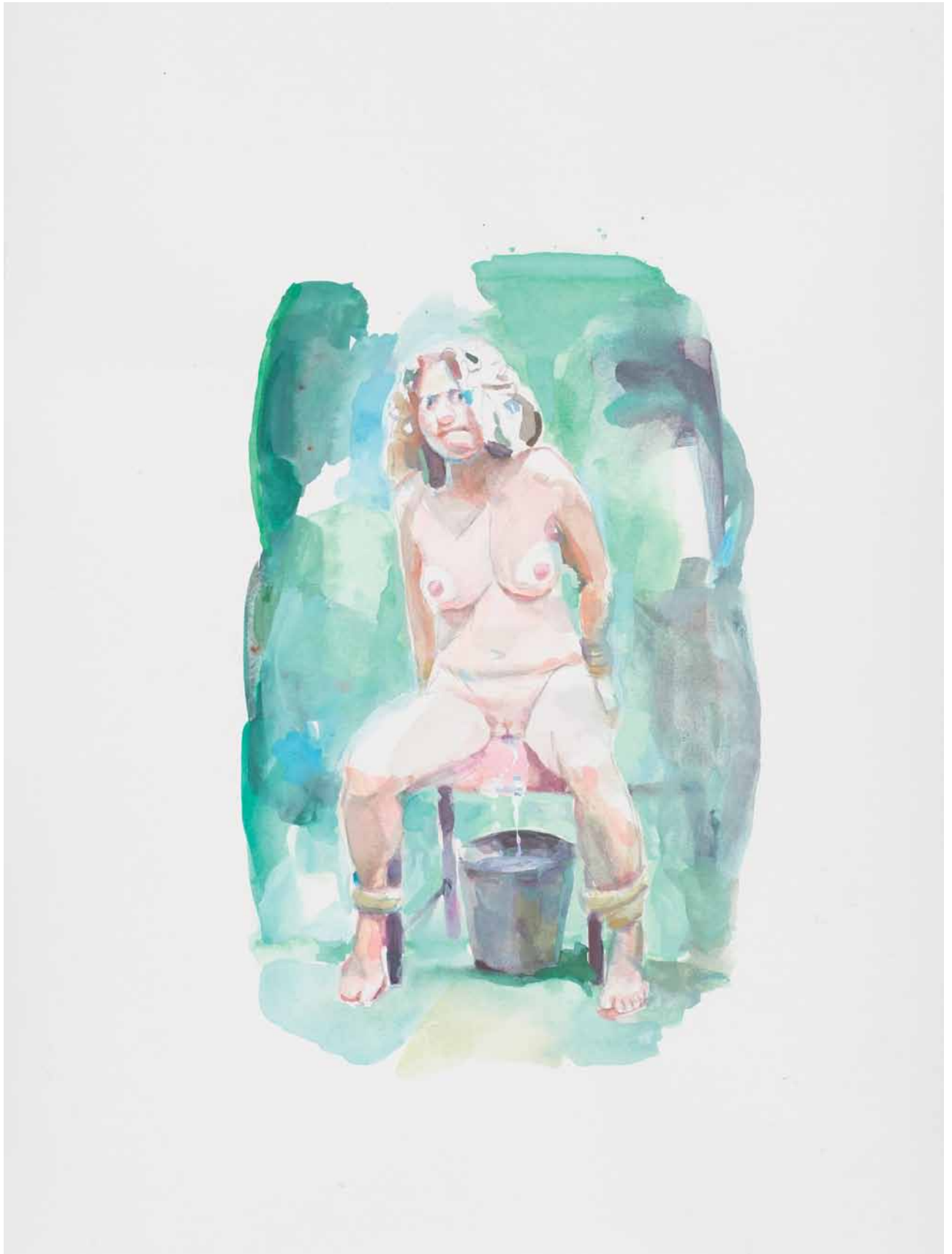
W3-2008 · gouache on paper · 32 x 24 cm

P1-2009 · ceramics · height 38 cm



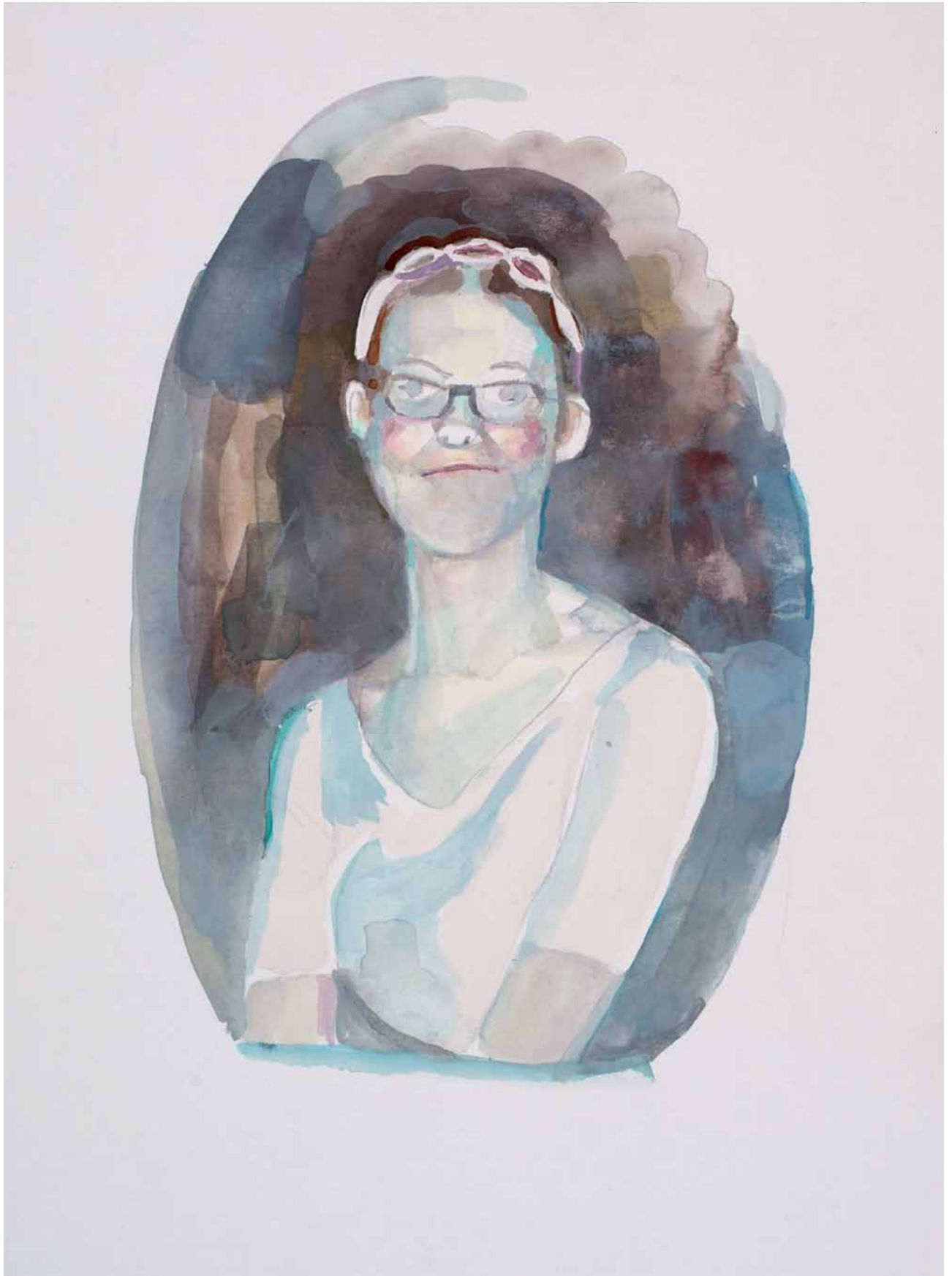














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|---------|--|------|---|
| 1964 | Born in Stuttgart | 2008 | <i>Face à face</i> , Kabinett Bern
<i>Posing</i> , Kunsthalle Darmstadt
<i>Berlin Bouquet</i> , the Living Room, Amsterdam |
| 1984–90 | Diploma in Fine Arts / Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe | 2007 | <i>Grafik im Licht</i> , Berlinische Galerie, Berlin |
| 1986 | Erasmus-Scholarship Norwich School of Art, Norfolk/ England | 2006 | <i>Wir hätten das Land gern weit und rund und SieÖ</i> , Showroom Berlin |
| 1993 | <i>Landscapes / Symposium</i> in Krasnojarsk/Siberia | | <i>Scary Tales</i> , Filiale Berlin, Galerie Conrads/Galerie Römerapotheke |
| 1994 | Scholarship «Senat für kulturelle Angelegenheiten», Berlin | 2005 | <i>Aqua Reel</i> , Römerapotheke, Zurich
<i>Kosmo Logic</i> , Galerie Jette Rudolph, Berlin
<i>shredder</i> , Galerie Martin van Zomeren, Amsterdam
<i>Nicht mit Steinen werfen</i> , Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt
<i>The Parable Show</i> , Galerie Grimm/Rosenfeld, München |
| 1994–95 | Scholarship Baden-Württemberg | 2004 | <i>Sinnenfreuden</i> , Kunsthalle Göppingen |
| 1995 | Scholarship Baden-Württemberg GmbH Art Foundation | 2003 | <i>Herbarium der Blicke</i> , Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn |
| 1997 | Scholarship Kunstfonds Bonn | 2001 | <i>Szenenwechsel XX</i> , MMK, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main |
| 1998 | Scholarship «Young Art» in Essen | | |
| 2001 | Booth at art cologne | | |
| 2003 | Scholarship at Künstlerhaus Schloß Balmoral, Bad Ems | | |
| 2005 | Scholarship at «Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur», Berlin | | |
| 2006 | Fellowship Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Umpertide, Italien | | |
| 2008 | EKWC (European Ceramic Workcentre) 's-Hertogenbosch/ Holland | | |

Lives and works in Berlin

SOLO SHOWS (selection of)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | <i>Gnade</i> , Galerie Römerapotheke Zurich
<i>Carokoko</i> , Kunst & Kultur Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz e.V., Berlin |
| 2009 | Galerie Conrads, Düsseldorf, with Gabi Hamm |
| 2008 | <i>Gebrannte Kinder</i> , Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg
<i>Unschuld in tausend Nöten</i> , display, Leipzig |
| 2007 | Filiale, Galerie Römerapotheke, Berlin |
| 2006 | Galerie Römerapotheke, Zurich |
| 2005 | Kunstabank, Berlin, with Nicole Schuck
<i>Fixiert und betrachtet</i> , ausstellungsraum 25, Zurich |
| 2004 | <i>Freuden des Hauses</i> , Städtische Galerie Waldkraiburg
<i>Wasserfarben</i> , Galerie der Stadt Stuttgart
Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, with Vitek Marcinkiewicz |
| 2003 | <i>meubles</i> , Galerie Jette Rudolph, Berlin
<i>Freuden des Hauses</i> , ADG Kunstverein Nürnberg |
| 2001 | Galerie Borgemeister, Berlin
Galerie Wallner, Malmö
Galerie Frank Schlag, Essen |
| 1999 | <i>Rührstücke und Sympathieträger</i> , Galerie Haus Schneider, Ettlingen
<i>In der Musterwohnung</i> , at «Essener Margarethenhöhe» and in Galerie im Kunsthaus Essen |

GROUP SHOWS (selection of)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | <i>Tokyo+Berlin Communication Art</i> , Freies Museum Berlin
<i>Happy End</i> , Kunsthalle Göppingen
<i>Polyfizyboisterous Seas</i> , Galerie Hartwich Rügen
Junge Kunst der Berlinischen Galerie und der GASAG, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin
<i>peripher photographisch</i> , Galerie Lendl Graz
<i>À rebours</i> , Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris (with Martin Eder, Elly Strik and Christoph Wachter)
<i>4</i> , Galerie Jette Rudolph, Berlin |
| 2009 | <i>bildschön</i> , Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe
<i>HaiSchaiMai</i> , Oqpo, Berlin |

PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2006 | <i>Caro Suerkemper. Gebrannte Kinder</i> , Galerie Römerapotheke 1996 |
| 2005 | Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Hrsg. Marion Ackermann, 282–283 |
| 2004 | <i>Caro Suerkemper. Freuden des Hauses</i> , Künstlerhaus Schloß Balmoral, Bad Ems
<i>Caro Suerkemper. Wasserfarben</i> , Galerie der Stadt Stuttgart
Review of <i>Wasserfarben</i> in: <i>Kunstforum</i> vol. 170, 317–318
<i>Sinnenfreuden</i> , Hrsg. Bernd Finkeldei, Kunstverein Göppingen |
| 2003 | <i>Herbarium der Blicke</i> , Neuaufnahmen im Deutschen Künstlerbund, Berlin
<i>Zehn Jahre Museum Moderne Kunst</i> , Frankfurt am Main, Hrsg. Andreas Bee, Köln 2003, S. 451 |
| 2002 | <i>Nach was trachtet ein betrachtetes Objekt?</i> , artist talk, <i>Kunstforum</i> , vol. 160, 332–341
<i>Rainer Borgemeister: Lokomotive Denken</i> , Hrsg. Wolfgang Siano, Bonn, 230–231 |
| 2001 | <i>Szenenwechsel XX</i> , Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main |
| 2000 | <i>Galerie im Kunsthaus Essen 1998–2000</i> , Kunsthaus Essen, 22–23 |
| 1999 | <i>Caro Suerkemper. In der Musterwohnung</i> , Stipendium Junge Kunst in Essen, Kunsthaus Essen |
| 1997 | <i>Caro Suerkemper. Malerei 1997</i> , Galerie im Parkhaus, Berlin
<i>Caro Suerkemper. Frau mit Herz</i> , Karlsruhe |
| 1996 | <i>Pittura</i> , Castello di Rivara, Torino, Italy
<i>Caro Suerkemper. Bräute</i> , Berlin |
| 1995 | <i>Himmel und Erde. Frauen in Gewaltverhältnissen</i> , Edited by Brigitte Franzen et al., Marburg, 58–60 |
| 1994 | <i>Caro Suerkemper. Ein kleines Kabinettstück</i> , Berlin |

COLLECTIONS

- Berlinische Galerie · Columbus Art Foundation Ravensburg
Kunstmuseum Stuttgart · Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt
Museum Ritter, Waldenbuch · Sammlung Deutsche Bank
Sammlung ING Bank, Brüssel · Sammlung Yoshiko Isshiki, Tokyo
Sammlung Thomas Koerfer, Zürich · Sammlung Jean Pigozzi, Genf
Sammlung Sparkasse Essen · Städtische Galerie Waldkraiburg
Sammlung Dieter Meier Zürich · Sammlung Franz Wassmer CH/F



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The sculptures were made at EKWC
's-Hertogenbosch (Holland) and in the
«Bildhauerwerkstätten des BBK Berlin»

LAYOUT

Caro Suerkemper, Wolfgang Siano
and Frank Benno Junghanns

PHOTOS

André Bockholdt, Jürgen Gebhardt,
Gunther Lepkowski and Caro Suerkemper

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MORE INFORMATION AT
www.roemerapotheke.ch



