

Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation buys Bruce Nauman's latest work

The sculpture *Leaping Foxes* by the influential US-American artist will stay in Basel

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MEDIA RELEASE

At their spring meeting, the Board of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation took the decision to acquire the sculpture *Leaping Foxes* (2018) by Bruce Nauman for the Foundation's collection. The monumental piece, a pyramid of polyurethane "animal bodies" suspended from the ceiling, was created by the artist on-site for his retrospective at Schaulager.

The Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation began collecting Bruce Nauman in the late 1960s and has since acquired one of the world's most remarkable bodies of work by this 77-year-old, American artist. It has become a highlight of the Foundation's holdings. Following the acquisition, in recent years, of two large-scale works—the sound installation *Days* and the seven-part video piece *Contrapposto Studies*—the sculpture *Leaping Foxes* makes an impressive addition to the collection.

This striking sculpture consists of 17 polyurethane animal bodies of the kind commonly used in taxidermy. Many such animal shapes in diverse attitudes and poses are commercially available in the trade, as models to be covered with tanned hides. In *Leaping Foxes*, the artist tied together the naked bodies of eight deer, five caribou, and four foxes in the form of an inverted pyramid, which shows them dangling upside down from the ceiling.

The creation of the sculpture, carried out by the artist's assistants and the staff of the Laurenz Foundation, is closely related to Schaulager and the institution's current presentation of the major retrospective "Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts." In the words of the Foundation's president, Maja Oeri, "Being able to acquire this magnificent sculpture for Basel is a great stroke of fortune."

The work will be on view at Schaulager until August 26 as part of the exhibition "Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts." The retrospective will then move on to the Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1, where it will be on view from October 21, 2018 to March 17, 2019.

High-caliber, international conference on Bruce Nauman

“Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts,” the first comprehensive retrospective in 25 years, showcases the artist’s work in a wide variety of media. It will run until August 26. The exhibition brings together rarely seen works in combination with renowned key works. In addition to *Leaping Foxes*, the show includes another world premiere, the 3D video *Contrapposto Split* (2017), as well as the first-ever showing in Europe of the monumental video projection *Contrapposto Studies, i through vii*. Three works by Nauman from the collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation are on view at Kunstmuseum Basel throughout the exhibition run. “Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts” is a joint project with the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

High-caliber, international conference on Bruce Nauman

Schaulager has organized a range of events in conjunction with the exhibition. One of the highlights is the international conference on Bruce Nauman to take place at Schaulager on June 1-2, with lectures by Beatrice von Bismarck, Eric C. H. de Bruyn, Sabeth Buchmann, Eva Ehninger, Benjamin D. Piekut, and Robert Storr. It is moderated by Simon Baier and Markus Klammer.

For additional information and high-res images, visit

www.schaulager.org/de/medien

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