

BLOUINARTINFO

ANDREA GEYER

Truly Spun Never by Andrea Geyer at Hales Gallery,
New York, Blouin Artinfo, 13 April 2018



Andrea Geyer, Truly Spun Never, Hales Project Room, 7 March - 21 April 2018

Hales Gallery presents “Truly Spun Never,” a solo exhibition of German artist Andrea Geyer in New York. This exhibition showcases a three-channel video installation that challenges the notion of art existing independent of politics and outside of life.

Andrea Geyer is a versatile artist moving freely in the worlds of photography, painting, sculpture, video and performance. Through all these media, she explores the role of art in different social and political situations and in the context of cultural institutions and historical events. Through her creations, she always delves into the questions of political and urban environments, cultural aspects, role of women and their contribution to modern society as well as the question of citizenship. She has worked to establish the rights of marginalized ideas and people and to create a space for them into history. Throughout her work, the central theme is, “art should be a site to offer the possibility of re-orientation(s) towards a current moment.”

In the present installation, Geyer explored the political history of “Ausdruckstanz” (expressive dance) which was prevalent in Germany between 1910 and 1940. It was characterized by celebration of supple movements

of the body, raw emotions, and sensuality. This form of “German dance,” was not considered degenerate like other modern art forms such as poetry, theatre, painting, or sculpture. The free movement of the body created an illusion of physical liberation among the dancers like Rudolph Laban and Mary Wigmann, and covered up the oppressive cultural politics of the Third Reich under the leadership of Goebbels’ ministry of propaganda to the dancers who chose to remain in Germany. They had to remove all “non-Aryan” dancers from their schools and companies, and yet lived in an imaginary world of belief that dance existed as a “pure” art form outside the reach of politics. Geyer’s work has challenged the idea that art exists outside of life and/or politics.

Andrea Geyer’s work has been showcased in San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in California; Centre for Contemporary Art, Berlin; The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art; Tate Modern and Serpentine Gallery, London; Kunstmuseum St.Gallen, Switzerland among others.