

LUST FOR LIFE

CLAUDIA CHRISTOFFEL

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LUST FOR LIFE

The exhibition deals with the shocking subject of breast cancer. So many series of photographs have been made on this topic that we immediately associate it with specific images – pictures that reinforce the horror of the illness and prompt us to look away. Claudia Christoffel's exhibition *Lust for Life* is not like that. It shows "unused" pictures, images informed by the latest research, that deal with healing, and that speak of strategies for handling a crisis that may trigger such an illness. It is about metaphors for *joie de vivre*, about the lust for life.

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 1)

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 1) consists of six playlists made especially for Claudia Christoffel during her illness by friends and colleagues from the cultural sector. They are the result of an instruction issued by the artist: "Please make me a playlist of the top ten pieces of music you feel to be helpful for getting through a serious, life-threatening crisis."

Exhibition invitation



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MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 1)

Three posters, duplex offset, yellow-white/white-yellow, 250 of each, 2017/2018

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY

SIBYLLE SPRINGER, BILDENDE KÜNSTLERIN

- 1 MICHAELA MELIAN **IGNAZ GÜNTHER HOUSE**
- 2 ANONYMOUS **O LEGGIADRI OCCHI BELLI**
- 3 ANTONIO VIVALDI **BAJAZET / VEDESTE MAI SUL PRATO**
- 4 CLEAN BANDIT **FT. A&E KANDAKA MOORE & NIKKI CISLYN**
- 5 ANTONIO VIVALDI **BAJAZET / LA SORTE MIA SPIETATA**
- 6 ANTONIO CALDARA **SEBBEN CRUDELE**
- 7 SWEETBOX **CINDERELLA**
- 8 ANTONIO VIVALDI **ERCOLE**
- 9 TOMMASO GIORDANI **CARO MIO BEN**
- 10 ANTONIO VIVALDI **BAJAZET / ON HO NEL SEN COSTANZA**

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY

HERWIG GILLERKE, BILDENDER KÜNSTLER

- 1 IGGY POP **LUST FOR LIFE**
- 2A DAVID BOWIE **BLACKSTAR**
- 2B THE CURE **THE FUNERAL PARTY**
- 3 THE CREATURES **KILLING TIME**
- 4 YOKO ONO **WALKING ON THIN ICE**
- 5 THIS MORTAL COIL (COCTEAU TWINS) **SONG TO THE SIREN**
- 6 JOHNNY CASH (NINE INCH NAILS) **HURT**
- 7 STEVE HARLEY & COCKNEY **REBEL MAKE ME SMILE**
- 8 BLONDIE **ONE WAY OR ANOTHER**
- 9 PATTI SMITH **LAND**
- 10 SEX PISTOLS **MY WAY**



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MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY

ANDREAS SCHNELL, MUSIKJOURNALIST

- 1 LIFE BUT HOW TO LIVE IT GREEN
- 2 PEACHES I DON'T GIVE A FUCK
- 3 NEKO CASE MAN
- 4 JOEY RAMONE WONDERFUL WORLD
- 5 HÜSKER DÜ NEW DAY RISING
- 6 WILCO NOTHING'S EVER GONNA STAND IN MY WAY (AGAIN)
- 7 IGGY POP LUST FOR LIFE
- 8 JOHN HARTFORD GENTLE ON MY MIND
- 9 DINOSAUR JR. TAKE A RUN AT THE SUN
- 10 BEACH BOYS GOOD VIBRATIONS

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY

ANDERS BECKER, MUSIKER

- 1 BEATLES THE WORD
- 2 MARGO GURRYAN SUNDAY MORNING
- 3 CHOCOLATE WATCH BAND IN THE PAST
- 4 KULA SHAKER GREAT HOSANNAH
- 5 KING CRIMSON EPITAPH
- 6 BYRDS THOUGHTS & WORDS
- 7 USA CLOUD SONG
- 8 GANDALF NATURE BOY
- 9 THE CYRKLE DON'T CRY, NO TEARS, NO FEARS COMING YOUR WAY
- 10 RAVI SHANKAR RAGA CHARU KESHI



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MATINA LOHMÜLLER, KULTURMANAGERIN

- 1 ALEX NEWELL (WITH NILE RODGERS) KILL THE LIGHTS
 - 2 CYNDI LAUPER GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN
 - 3 FALCO JUNGE RÖMER
 - 4 D'ANGELO BROWN SUGAR
 - 5 BELINDA CARLISLE LIVE YOUR LIVE BE FREE
 - 6 MADONNA HOLIDAY
 - 7 BEE GEES NIGHT FEVER
 - 8 TALKING IS HARD SHUT UP AND DANCE
 - 9 JACKSON BROWNE RUNNING ON EMPTY
 - 10 CHRIS BROWN DON'T WAKE ME UP
- JOKER RICHARD WAGNER WALKÜRENRIIT

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY

CHRISTINE BENECKE, ART DIRECTOR

- 1 HARPERS BIZARRE WITCHI TAI TO
- 2 THE FLAMING LIPS DO YOU REALIZE ??
- 3 THE DIVINE COMEDY TONIGHT WE FLY
- 4 ELO MR. BLUE SKY
- 5 SÉBASTIEN TELLIER LOVE
- 6 THE 5TH DIMENSION AQUARIUS / LET THE SUNSHINE IN
- 7 NINA SIMONE HERE COMES THE SUN
- 8 MERCURY REV TONIGHT IT SHOWS
- 9 BEACH HOUSE D.A.R.L.I.N.G.
- 10 KULA SHAKER HEY DUDE



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MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 1)

The lists are as diverse as those who compiled them:

Sibylle Springer (painter), who has previously performed as a Baroque DJ, put together a playlist of mostly Baroque music, plus a few pop songs that quote Baroque music; Anders Becker (musician) has been playing in the Mandra Gora Lightshow Society since 1992, a band inspired by the artistic vision of psychedelic rock music, hence his playlist shaped by the spirit of the 1960s; Matina Lohmüller (culture manager and curator) added a joker in the form of Richard Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries. There is only one repeated song: Andreas Schnell (music journalist) and Herwig Gillerke (artist and DJ) both included LUST FOR LIFE by Iggy Pop:

I got a lust for life
Lust for life
I got a lust for life
I got a lust for life

Writer credits: David Bowie / Iggy Pop

Lyrics to *Lust For Life* © Sony / ATV Music Publishing LLC, BMG Rights Management

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 2)

GO DISCO!

DJ set by Herwig Gillerke

DJ set by Herwig Gillerke on the opening evening. In addition to his MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY playlist, the Bremen artist also played his longlist of songs he feels to be helpful for getting through a serious, life-threatening crisis.

MUSIC IS THE STRATEGY (Part 3)

Talk by Prof Gunter Kreutz from Oldenburg University about the health-promoting properties of music from a scientific viewpoint.



DAS GLÜCK DARF AUCH KLEIN SEIN (HAPPINESS MAY BE SMALL TOO)

Diasc 40 x 50 cm, 2017



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose



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DAS GLÜCK DARF AUCH KLEIN SEIN (HAPPINESS MAY BE SMALL TOO)

Diasc 40 x 50 cm, 2017



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose

"In Christoffel's work *DAS GLÜCK DARF AUCH KLEIN SEIN*, a tiny portrait of her measuring just 3.5 cm tall dances in a yellow dress against a white background. We can guess at the crushing situations of exhaustion, physical change, pain and nausea in which even the smallest moments of devotion, enjoyment and happiness can become true joys. How one can and may be happy even in the direst of situations. The 'small joy' is not linked to a space or a situation; it can take place anywhere."

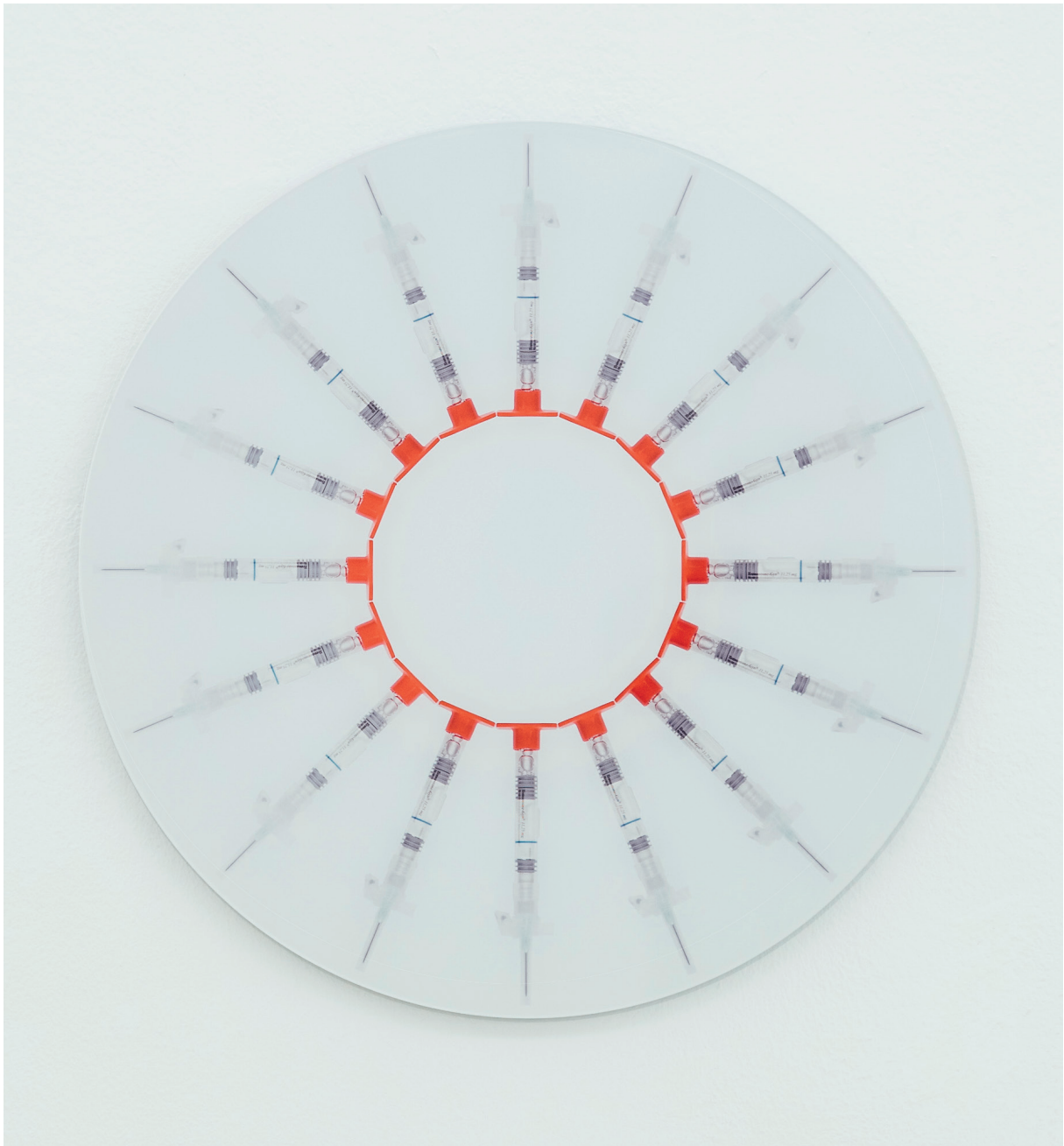
Quoted from: Prof Susanne Regener, "Lust for Life – Für einen neuen Diskurs über die Krankheit Krebs" (Berlin/Siegen 14 October 2021, for the website)



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TRENANTONE-GYN 11,25 mg

Diasac, 52 cm diameter, 2018



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose



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Nebenwirkung (Side-Effect)

Fine art print on Tecco matt paper, 17 x 24 cm, 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose



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TAMOXIFEN AL 20, TRENANTONE-GYN 11,25 mg

Diasac, 53 x 53 cm, 2018

Diasac, 52 cm diameter, 2018



Artist's talk, *Substance(s)*, Hafenmuseum, Bremen, Germany, April 2018

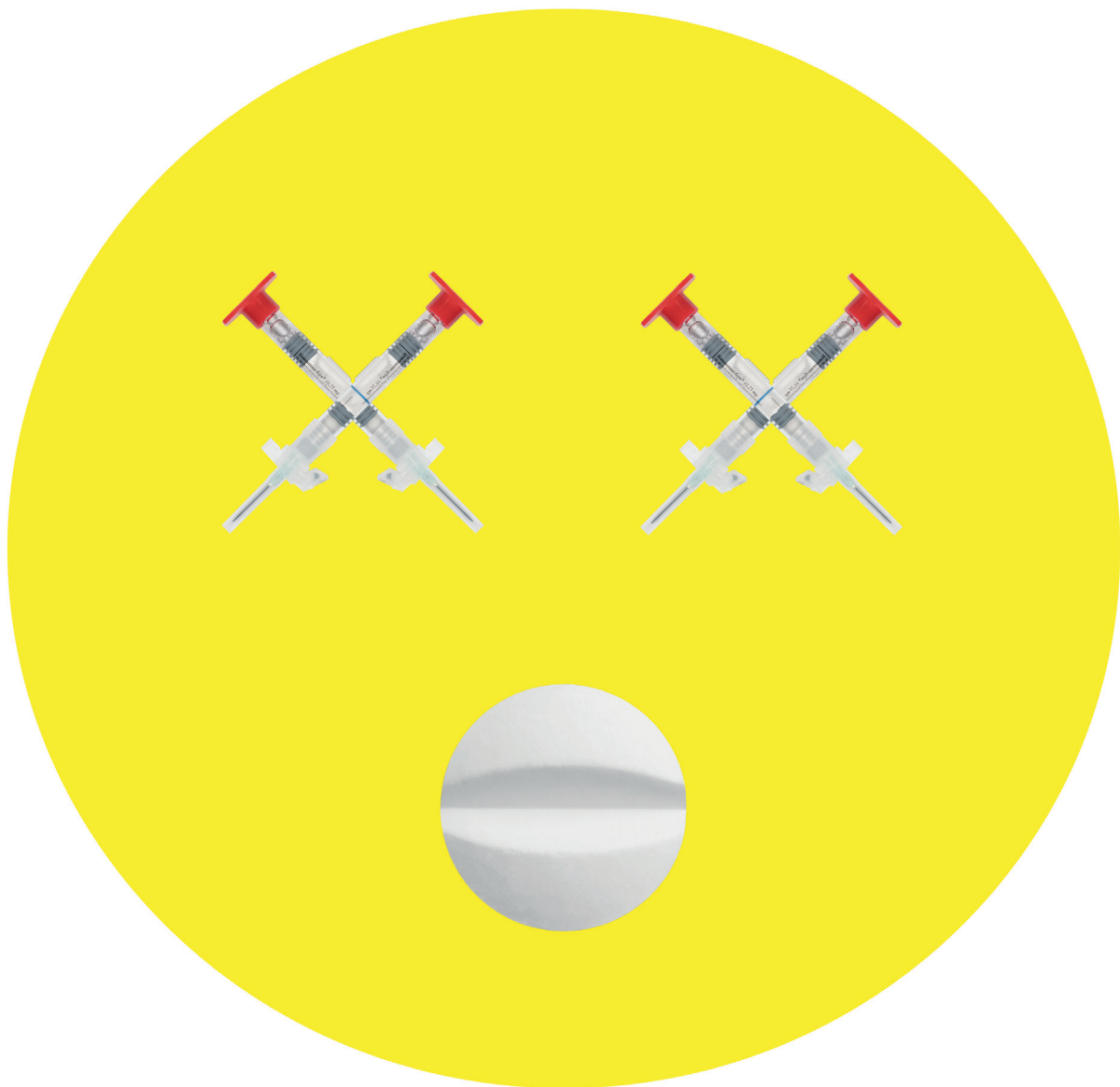
Photo: Lukas Klose

TAMOXIFEN AL 20 is a drug used to treat cancer. The artist photographed the pill 1825 times and lined the images up in original size. This corresponds to the standard course for breast cancer treatment of one pill per day for five years.

TRENANTONE-GYN 11.25 mg is a drug that is injected every three months into the abdominal fat of women who contract oestrogen-dependent cancers prior to menopause as a so-called GnRH analogue. The photo work shows sixteen syringes in original size, the course of injections over a four-year period. When necessary, this drug is injected in addition to TAMOXIFEN AL 20. For the patients, these pharmacological agents are substantial.

DIZZY FACE

Diasac, 27 cm diameter, 2018



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose

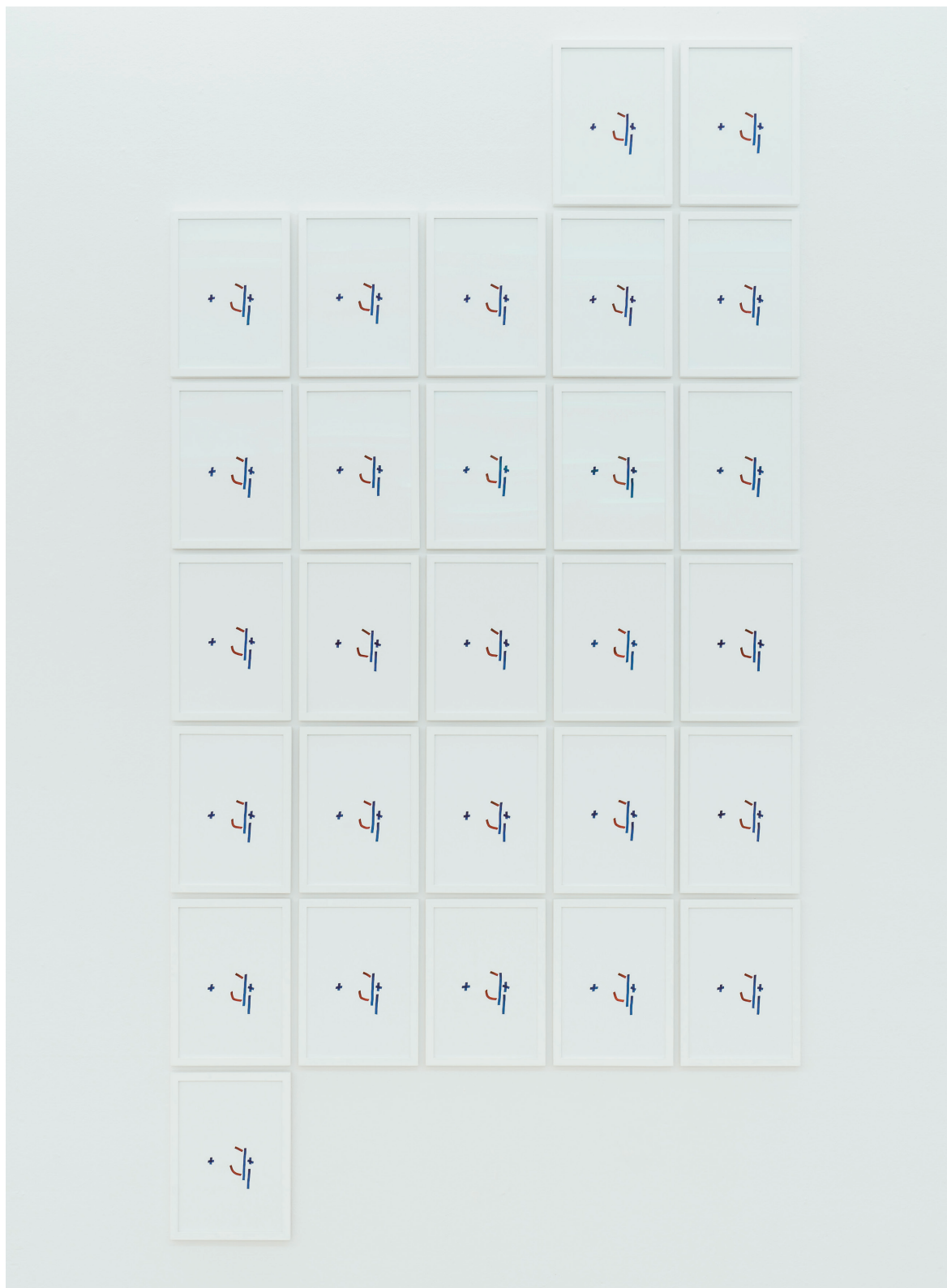
The dizzy face emoji is generally used for “mixed up” or “exhausted” or “at a loss”. These are precisely the initial side-effects experienced during cancer treatment with TAMOXIFEN AL 20 and TRENANTONE-GYN.



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61,6 GRAY

28 lightfast drawings on A4-format acid-free paper under UV-resistant anti-reflective glass in white-painted maple frames



61.6 Gray, Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose



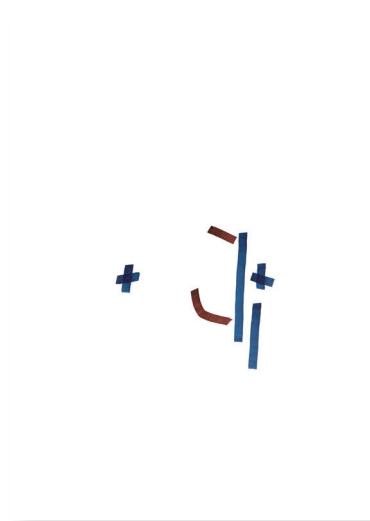
CLAUDIA CHRISTOFFEL

61,6 GRAY

Twenty-eight lightfast drawings on A4-format acid-free paper under UV-resistant anti-reflective glass in white-painted maple frames



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose



“The marks made on the patient’s skin before radiotherapy look like abstract art. Day after day, week after week, each individual ‘skin picture’ is framed. Here the marker images – drawn with the ink used in hospitals – become objects of memory related to healing, not excessive or kitschy. They derive their abstraction from the fact that they are necessary to make the cancer disappear. At the same time, a different, aesthetic reading is possible. This ambivalence between aesthetic pleasure and biographical reflection introduces tension to this exhibition.”

Quoted from: Prof Susanne Regener, “Lust for Life – Für einen neuen Diskurs über die Krankheit Krebs” (Berlin/Siegen 14 October 2021 for the website)



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Rezidiv (Recurrence)

Word sprayed on exhibition wall in "horror" lettering, 2018



Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photo: Lukas Klose

"This small work is easily overlooked – but it is hard to forget. The word "REZIDIV" is written in almost white on the white wall of Galerie Mitte, written in 'horror' lettering somewhere between a gothic comic, the logo of a black metal band, and the Rocky Horror Picture Show. And perhaps this is also the message: some horrors are so real and so brutal that any degree of subtlety would be an insult. Because the recurrence in question here is a tumour that might return."

Quotet from: Jan-Paul-Koopmann, *Taz Bremen*, 5 October 2018



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C50

Artist's book, 19.5 x 12.5 cm, 118 pages, offset, edition of 100, Argobooks Berlin,
Book design and photo: BANK™ 2018

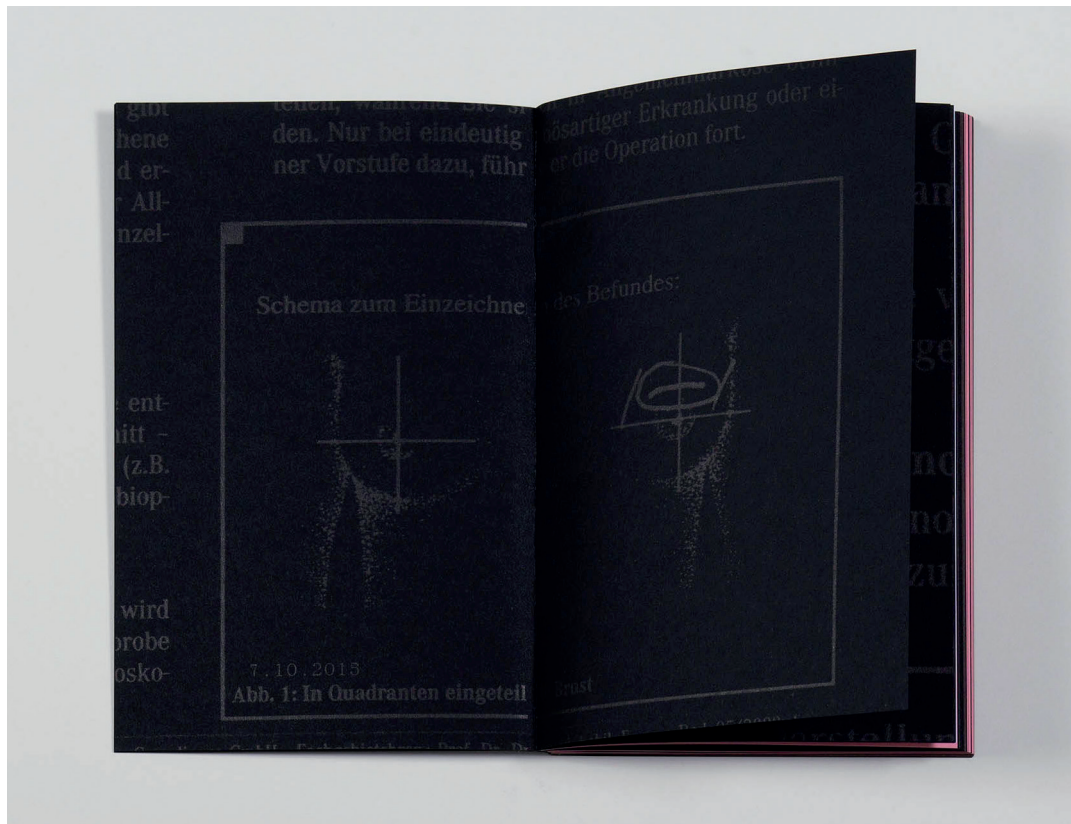


C50 is the diagnosis code for breast cancer. In a reduced, abstract manner, on mainly black and pink pages, the book recounts the illness of the artist Claudia Christoffel. The black Fedrigoni paper, the blackest paper that exists, is occasionally interrupted by pink pages corresponding to Baker Miller pink, a shade that has been scientifically proven to have a calming and anxiety-reducing effect on the viewer. In black on black, we are told key facts about the course of the disease: diagnosis on 6 October 2015, letters from doctors, operation, radiotherapy,

follow-on treatment and genetic testing. Two white pages show the artist's last self-portraits before falling ill. In among all this, as an additional narrative layer, are playlists suggested by friends and colleagues from the cultural sector with songs that give strength and help to get through serious, life-threatening crises.

C50

Artist's book, 19.5 x 12.5 cm, 118 pages, offset, edition of 100, Argobooks Berlin,
Book design and photo: BANK™ 2018



CLAUDIA CHRISTOFFEL

C50

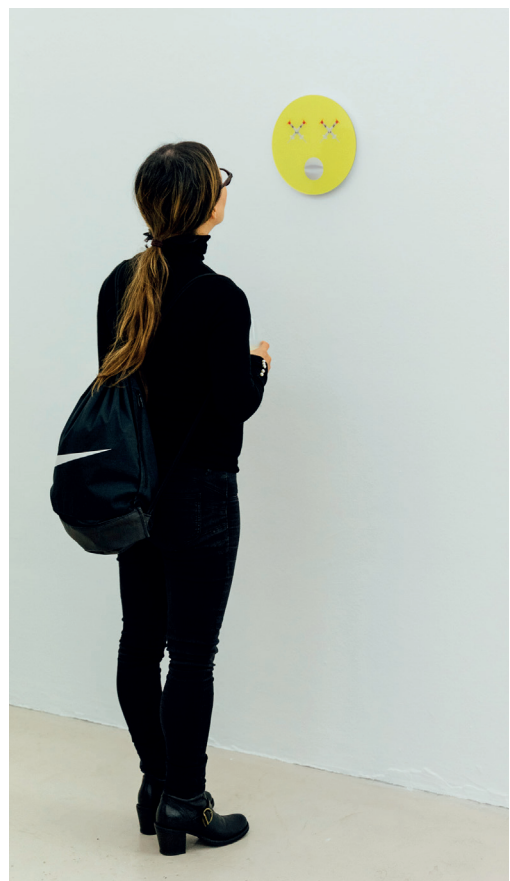
Artist's book, 19.5 x 12.5 cm, 118 pages, offset, edition of 100, Argobooks Berlin,
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Exhibition opening, Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018
Photos: Lukas Klose



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Exhibition opening, Galerie Mitte, Bremen, Germany, October 2018

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