

BETTINA POUSTTCHI —  
VERTICAL HIGHWAYS

9 September – 31 October 2020

Opening: Friday, 11 September, 10am–7pm

Gallery Weekend Berlin: 11–13 September, 10am–7pm



*Vertical Highways A12, 2020*  
Crash barrier, steel  
210 (h) x 130 x 130 cm  
82¼ (h) x 51¼ x 51¼ in

The Buchmann Galerie is pleased to announce for the Gallery Weekend Berlin a new exhibition by Bettina Pousttchi in the Buchmann Box.

Bettina Pousttchi shows new sculptures from the workgroup *Vertical Highways*, which were presented for the first time in this year's survey exhibition at the Berlinische Galerie - Museum of Modern Art. The new works in the Buchmann Box represent a further development of these sculptures and consist of crash barriers from the street, which regulate movement and traffic flow in public spaces and yet often go unnoticed. Using an industrial press, the artist deforms the individual elements and assembles them into upright sculptures, which immediately attract attention with their unusual coloring. Even in their altered form, the crash barriers remain recognizable and give an idea of the forces

that have affected the steel - the anthropomorphic character and the monochrome coloration fuse the individual parts into a coherent new form. The vertical alignment of the crash barriers, which are normally installed horizontally, changes the spatial perception when viewing the sculptures and gives them an architectural reference. For several years, Bettina Pousttchi has realized sculptures from urban space objects, such as street bollards, crowd barriers, bike racks, and tree protection barriers, which regulate movement in public space. The sequential use of the original object is a conceptual connection to Minimal Art and also a reference to Duchamp's Readymades.

*Directions* is a new group of works created in recent months and exhibited here for the first time. They are wall reliefs based on photographs Bettina Pousttchi took of road markings. These templates of street arrows are collaged in bundle-like forms, cut in steel, and then colored. The cut-out objects seem to float on the wall. Their clear, sharp-edged shape makes them oscillate between a kind of pictogram and graffiti. Similar to the *Vertical Highways*, the *Directions* take up the ordering structures of public space and "crowd control," the directing of crowds, a theme that is currently more topical than ever.

Bettina Pousttchi works with sculpture and photography, often on the scale of

architecture. Her site-specific photo installations often occupy entire building facades, such as her recent work *Berlin Window* on the complete glass facade of the Berlinische Galerie.

Currently, works by Bettina Pousttchi can also be seen at *Studio Berlin* in Berghain and at the anniversary exhibition Rohkunstbau XXV. Her façade work *Block* for the Kunsthalle Tübingen is also still on view, as well as the permanently installed sculpture *Marianne* on the Riverside Sculpture Park of the Arp Museum in Remagen from mid-September.

The work of Bettina Pousttchi has received much international recognition in recent years. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in international art institutions such as the Arts Club of Chicago, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., the Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., the Nasher Sculpture Center Dallas, the Kunstmuseum St.Gallen and the Kunsthalle Basel. In Germany, the artist has had solo exhibitions at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, the Neues Museum Nuremberg, the Kunsthalle Mainz, and recently at the KINDL Berlin and the Berlinische Galerie. Accompanying this exhibition, a comprehensive catalog has been published by Koenig Books London with essays by Jörg Heiser, Thomas Köhler, Jeremy Strick, and Melissa Ho.