

ANGELA DE LA CRUZ

Barricade

Opening: September 6

Duration: September 7 – October 28, 2023

Carolina Grau, independent Curator will be speaking at the opening
The artist will be present.

For the last thirty years, Angela de la Cruz has been experimenting with the language of painting and its history. Her minimalist monochrome paintings are self-aware of the canon to which they belong. In conjunction with this, de La Cruz has always sought the third dimension in painting, she sees her paintings as objects that exist within their surroundings, and in this way uses the language of sculpture and of found objects to create pictorial installations.

'Barricade' the title of de la Cruz's exhibition at Krinzinger Gallery explores the polarised and defensive world we live in. The word *barricade* means a fortification hastily made to obstruct or to defend oneself, often constructed with domestic and urban objects. Its etymology comes from the French word *barrique*, in Spanish *barrica*, literally meaning 'made of barrels'. In the history of European revolutions, the barricade stands as a symbol of insurrection and a weapon of the weak, allowing the more marginalized members of society – the urban poor and often women – to seize power temporarily.

De la Cruz' 'Barricade' presents us with different types of structures using furniture and paintings that have been disjointed and neatly reassembled to create defensive shields. These works convey the vulnerability of having been disarticulated and the fragility of their new assemblage. The series *Barricade* is displayed in a row standing on the floor, preventing us from moving freely in the room. These paintings have been meticulously cut into strips and re-stretched onto frame fragments. Forcefully standing on our path, these works are exposed, and we find ourselves surrounding them. Their defiant and defensive nature is uneasy – when a barrier is drawn, two sides are created – we, the viewers, may be the aggressors.

Hanging on the wall is the series titled *Barricade Hurdle*, these works resemble bodies that have been dissected and put back together; they reveal a minimal gap between the two joint stretches where the edges of the canvas come together, like a pinch of skin. Its nudity is laid open by the selection of neutral colours: off-whites, blacks, and earthy reds; yet, they are aggressive.

Barricade (Chairs), *Barricade (Sofa)*, and *Barricade (Foam)* are artworks made with dismembered furniture, laying bare their structure. They make visible a process of transformation as if the artist has skinned them to expose their skeleton, their insides – a metaphor for our decaying society. The assemblage of these works is confrontational and presents us with a continuous temporary uprising for potential change in our world. A shout from within our society in a political landscape that has become almost impossible to negotiate space of protest and effect change.

Carolina Grau

(Carolina Grau curated the mid-career retrospective *Angela de la Cruz: Homeless* at Azkuna Zentroa, Bilbao and Centro de Arte Contemporánea (CGAC) Santiago de Compostela in 2019.)

Angela de la Cruz was born in A Coruña in Galicia, Northwest Spain, in 1965 and lives and works in London. She studied Philosophy at the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain (1987) before moving to London, where she obtained a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London, UK (1994) and an MA in Sculpture and Critical Theory from the Slade, London, UK (1996).

Solo exhibitions include Helga de Alvear Gallery, Madrid, Spain (2022); Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, Germany (2019); Museo Cabañas, Guadalajara, Mexico (2021); CGAC, Santiago de Compostela, Spain curated by Carolina Grau (2019); Lisson Gallery, London, UK (2018); Azkuna Zentroa, Bilbao, Spain (2018); Peer, London, UK (2016); Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Fundacion Luis Seoane, A Coruña, Spain (2015); Carreras Mugica, Bilbao, Spain (2014); Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden (2013); Camden Arts Centre, London, UK (2010); Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain (2005); Museo de Arte Contemporanea de Vigo and Annex Space MARCO, Spain (2004).

In 2010, de la Cruz was nominated for the Turner Prize and was the recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Award in the UK. In 2017, she was awarded the Premio Nacional de Artes Plásticas in Spain. In 2021 de la Cruz was awarded the Sunny Dupree Family Award for a Woman Artist for her work at the Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London, and in 2022 she was nominated for the David and Yuko Juda Foundation Grant.

Barricade is Angela de la Cruz's 5th solo exhibition at Galerie Krinzinger. After the group exhibition *Fasten Seatbelt* at Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna in 1997 and *Take Off* also in 1997 and *UK Maximum Diversity* in 1998, both curated by Ursula Krinzinger at the Benger Fabrik in Bregenz the artist was invited for her first solo exhibition *Everyday Painting* in 1999 following *Clutter* in 2003, *Wet* in 2012 and *Selected Works 2005 – 2015* in 2017.