

Judith Bernstein (*1942 New Jersey, NJ)



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Title	BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSE #2
Also known as	GEBURT DES UNIVERSUMS #2
Date	2013
Medium	Oil on canvas
Dimensions	image: 240 x 242 cm object: 240 x 242 x 3.5 cm
Signature	-
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	-
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	ZKG.2020/0002
Credit line	Kunsthhaus Zürich, 2020
Accession year	2020

Object type	painting
Classification	G 2 art 21st century worldwide

Description	On Valentine's Day, we cannot avoid also addressing the theme of passion, sexuality and the sometimes violent relationship between men and women.
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For a long time, Bernstein's preferred subject was the phallus. For her, the phallus was and is a form of protest against sexism, testosterone-driven warfare and every form of oppression. 'Stuffed phalli, blood and sperm right next to images of the nation and the flag of the United States: It's funny - but it's also deadly serious!' the artist says. Only later did vulvas - Bernstein calls them "angry cunts" - appear, as in the series "Birth of the Universe". In it, the artist processes the woman's rage, but again with a lot of humour and stylistic devices that are reminiscent of graffiti and can best be described as a kind of comic-like expressionism. The vulva as the beginning of life and the universe. The gaudy colours in 'Birth of the Universe', which incidentally glow under UV light, were

also completely new for the artist and a kind of liberation. Or to put it in Judith Bernstein's words: 'I just love the explosive energy – it's almost like an ejaculation.' We are very pleased to have been able to set an example for the strengthening of female positions in the collection with this work.

Provenance Judith Bernstein (*1942 New Jersey, NJ) (Künstler/-in)
2020, Karma International (Galerie), Zürich
ab 2020, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft | Kunsthaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Kauf

Provenance category -

About the provenance

Literature - Jahresbericht 2020, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, Zürich, 2020.
- Mirjam Varadinis: «Judith Bernstein. BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSE #2, 2013», in:
Jahresbericht 2020, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, Zürich, 2020, S. 32-34