

Katharina Fritsch: Postcards

This focused selection of five large-scale postcard sculptures by celebrated German artist Katharina Fritsch features works made by enlarging and silkscreening images originally found on travel postcards onto sheets of shaped plastic. By transforming small-scale souvenirs into monumental sculpture, imagery that was once whimsical and benign becomes surreal and disquieting. Through Fritsch's intervention, once elegant baguettes become an enlarged mass and garden insects are made ominous.

Since 1993 Fritsch has produced a diverse body of work that mines the process by which we remember. Through her precise fabrication, pristine surfaces, and densely saturated pigments, Fritsch reimagines the quotidian in unexpected ways. Known primarily for hyper-real, monochromatic sculpture, the artist employs deadpan humor and radical shifts in scale to communicate the strangeness of memory and the emotional resonance of cultural objects. In this body of work, Fritsch elevates the *süßes Kitsch*, or "illustrated postcard," from its ready-made status into an avant-garde aesthetic.

Fritsch's Postcards are simultaneously deeply personal and universally accessible: *8. Postkarte (Essen)*, which portrays her place of birth, is imbued with autobiographical significance, while *1. Postkarte (Ibiza)* celebrates not only the objectification of its male subject but of memory itself. Fritsch reminds us that the process of remembering is itself an act of distortion.

Katharina Fritsch: Postcards is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator.

This exhibition is generously supported by Matthew Marks Gallery.

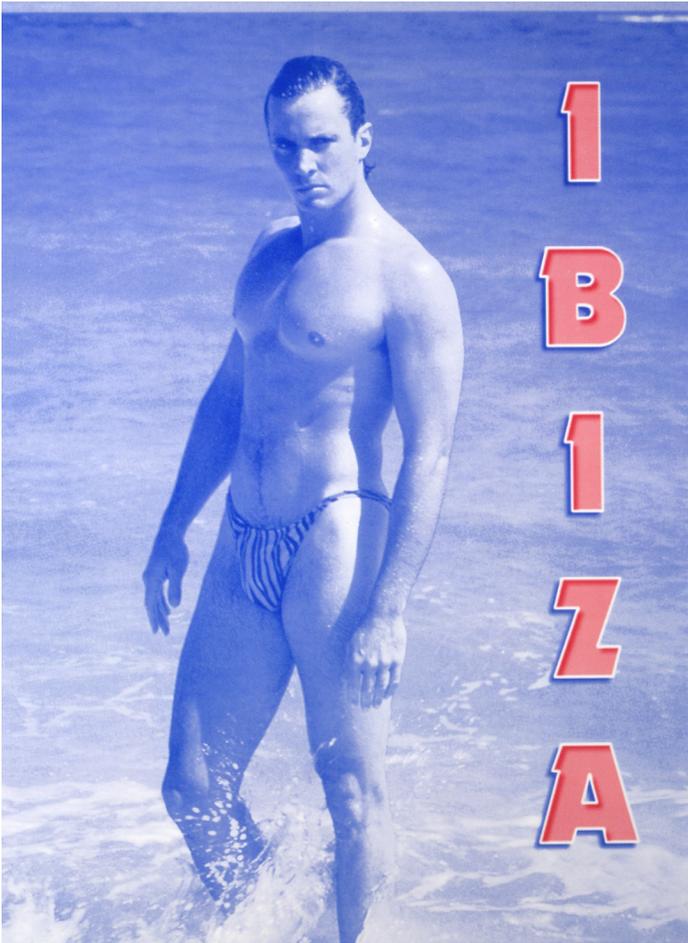


Katharina Fritsch, *Postkarte (Paris) 2*, 2004. Oil-based ink and acrylic on plastic panel, 110 × 67 inches. © Katharina Fritsch / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn / Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery



Audio Tour

Download the CAM app at camstl.org/app or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the curator on the audio tour.



Katharina Fritsch, *1. Postkarte (Ibiza)*, 2003. Oil-based ink and acrylic on plastic panel, 79 x 54 inches. © Katharina Fritsch / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn / Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery

Katharina Fritsch (b. 1956, Essen, Germany) lives and works in Düsseldorf. She represented Germany at the 1995 Venice Biennale and has been included in numerous international exhibitions, including *Documenta 13*, *Carnegie International*, *Skulptur Projekte Münster*, and *Sydney Biennial*, among others. Fritsch has had solo exhibitions at the Dia Center for the Arts, New York; Kunstmuseum Basel; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Art Institute of Chicago; Tate Modern; and K21 in Düsseldorf. A retrospective of her work debuted at the Kunstmuseum Zürich (2009) and traveled to the Deichtorhallen Hamburg. In 2013, Fritsch was awarded the prestigious Fourth Plinth Commission in London, where her sculpture *Hahn/Cock* was exhibited in Trafalgar Square.

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