

Media Information  
21 March 2019

## **BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Anne Imhof.** **Tate Modern unveils major new work by Anne Imhof.**

**London.** Between 22 - 31 March Tate Modern stages its third annual BMW Tate Live Exhibition in the atmospheric subterranean Tanks. Anne Imhof's dynamic installation "Sex" is the first project by a solo artist to occupy the full suite of spaces in the Tanks. Anne Imhof is one of the most pioneering contemporary artists of her generation, awarded in 2015 with the Preis der Nationalgalerie, a long-term partner of BMW, and winner of the prestigious Golden Lion at Venice Biennale in 2017.

The commission is both an exhibition by day and a series of six live performances by night. Titled "Sex", the work deals with fluidity between binaries – female and male, top and bottom, night and day – and the blurred line where two opposing zones meet. Structural interventions splice through each of the grand spaces. In the South Tank, visitors walk into the space on a raised platform, a scenario mirrored in the East Tank where the hierarchy of viewing is reversed and visitors are situated on the ground beneath a pier. The adjacent Transformer galleries display a collection of Imhof's Gradient and Scratch paintings, alongside elements of sculpture that intervene in the architecture.

Since 2012, Imhof has worked with a core group of collaborators from diverse backgrounds to make her durational performances. During six remarkable evenings at Tate Modern, they will inhabit the space while interacting with each other and engaging with situations and objects that serve as settings for their characters. Imhof doesn't appear in the work herself but is present, orchestrating the work and sending notes and directions to her collaborators. Power dynamics between performer and viewer are also a key component of "Sex". Viewing positions alternate between high and low, shifting perspectives on the live tableaux. Performers also occupy an inaccessible zone behind a glass partition in the East Tank, onto which they paint. Although the structure and score of the live work is carefully developed by Imhof, what happens within the four-hour duration is dependent on the individuality and agency of the performers, making each staging unique and unrepeatable.

Graeme Grieve, Chief Executive Officer, BMW Group UK and Ireland, said: "Through our partnership with Tate Modern, BMW Tate Live has developed into an innovative exhibition format which attracts the world's leading performance artists to London. We are delighted that Anne Imhof will stage her exciting programme in the Tanks space in March and look forward to another successful exhibition."

Anne Imhof is renowned for staging complex performative projects over long periods of time, such as "Faust", an intense and engaging installation created for the German pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017. The artist divided the interior with glass partitions and floors inhabited by a choreographed group of performers. Other recent projects have included "Angst", presented in three acts at Kunsthalle Basel, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin, and the Biennale de Montréal in 2016.

This year's exhibition follows the success of the first two BMW Tate Live Exhibitions in 2017 and 2018. These groundbreaking programs pioneered a new model for the exhibition format with an ever-changing series of installations and live performances across ten days. Taking place in the Tanks, the world's first museum spaces dedicated to

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performance, film and installation, the BMW Tate Live Exhibitions have showcased a wide range of artists including Joan Jonas, Fujiko Nakaya, Isabel Lewis, Jason Moran, Mark Leckey, Jumana Emil Abboud, Wu Tsang and Fred Moten.

BMW Tate Live Exhibition is curated by Catherine Wood, Isabella Maidment and produced by Judith Bowdler.

“Sex” is the first of three chapters in a project commissioned by Tate Modern, London, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Castello di Rivoli Museo d’Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli-Turin.

**About BMW Tate Live**

BMW Tate Live is a major international partnership between BMW and Tate, which aims to foreground the pivotal role of live experimentation in art history and among artists working today. The programme has now showcased over 50 artists including both emerging and more familiar figures from across the world. It began in 2012 with the world’s first performance programme created for live online broadcast, and evolved into an ongoing series of performances at Tate Modern. As performance took on an increasingly key role in Tate Modern’s vision for the future of the museum, the first annual BMW Tate Live Exhibition was opened in the Tanks in 2017. For further information, please visit [tate.org.uk/bmwatelive](http://tate.org.uk/bmwatelive)

**About Anne Imhof**

Anne Imhof (b. 1978) lives and works in Berlin and Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She represented Germany at the 2017 Venice Biennale, where she was awarded the Golden Lion for best national participation, and has won the Absolut Art Award (2017) and the Preis der Nationalgalerie (2015). Imhof’s performances have been staged in solo exhibitions at major international venues including the Hamburger Bahnhof, Biennale de Montréal, Kunsthalle Basel and Portikus Frankfurt (2016), MoMA PS1, New York (2015) and the Musée d’art contemporain, Nîmes (2014). Her work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2015); and the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (2014).

**BMW Art Guide**

The fifth edition of the BMW Art Guide by Independent Collectors presents 270 private yet publicly accessible collections of contemporary art — featuring large and small, famous and the relatively unknown. Succinct portraits of the collections with color photographs take the reader to forty-three countries and 196 cities, often to regions that are off the beaten path. This no comparable compendium of international private collections of contemporary art exists on the internet or in printed form.

**For further questions please contact:**

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**About BMW Group Cultural Engagement**

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London, the company also partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business.

Further information: [www.bmwgroup.com/culture](http://www.bmwgroup.com/culture) and [www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview](http://www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview)

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**The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2018, the BMW Group sold over 2,490,000 passenger vehicles and more than 165,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2018 was € 9.815 billion on revenues amounting to € 97.480 billion. As of 31 December 2018, the BMW Group had a workforce of 134,682 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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