

**Symptomatic conspicuous
Becky Beasley in Galeria Plan B**

By Julia Meyer-Brehm

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With "HSP (or Promising Mid-Career Woman)", Galeria Plan B is showing a wonderfully minimalist exhibition by Becky Beasley. The artist embarks on a search for traces of her own past. Between pastel colors, posters and wigs, an unusually quiet and personal approach has emerged that moves.



Becky Beasley, HSP (or Promising Mid-Career Woman), exhibition view, Galeria Plan B, Berlin, 2021.
Photo: Trevor Good. Courtesy the artist and Plan B Cluj, Berlin.

When things suddenly start to make sense that have not matched for years, you can safely call them a happy ending. For example, when emotions or symptoms can suddenly be classified, depression, burn-outs or exhaustion become clues for a diagnosis. With her exhibition "HSP (or Promising Mid-Career Woman)" in Galeria Plan B.

HSP is an acronym for "Highly Sensitive Person". High sensitivity means an increased processing sensitivity of different stimuli. This personality trait plays a key role in Becky Beasley's exhibition: The circular lettering "Highly Sensitive Person" emblazoned on the linoleum floor in the entrance area of the gallery. As you read the words, you inevitably turn your head back and forth, creating a subtle disorientation. This temporary sense of confusion is intended by the artist: it is a metaphor for the eerie experience of what she herself went through.



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In the media presentation, highly sensitive people are often labeled as shy, sensitive people or overwhelmed dreamers. In reality, there is so far no uniform theory or definition of the phenomenon - nor is there a consistent diagnostic method. Becky Beasley has done research and found out a lot about gender research and the gender health gap . Since research is carried out on male subjects much more often, women are often misdiagnosed with neurological abnormalities. Many diseases, including autism, are diagnosed in significantly more men. This is also because women are not examined for it in the first place.

Beasley only received her diagnosis as an adult: Her autism was diagnosed in the winter of 2020. In addition to the usual symptoms, the artist has also experienced bullying, stigmatization, social exclusion or gaslighting for years. Hence, Beasley describes her late diagnosis as "probably one of the strangest happy endings" - not the ending and not that happy at all.



Becky Beasley: BACK! (G), 2021 / BACK! (R), 2021 / BACK! (B / W), 2021. Photo: Trevor Good. Courtesy the artist and Plan B Cluj, Berlin.

In her second solo exhibition in the Plan B gallery, the artist looks back on her life, which only makes sense in the retrospective. And although the exhibition has a minimalist formal language, references and links can be found again and again, such as the three pastel pink curtains that divide the room. Only when you think around the corner do you recognize the meaning of its shape: If you were to look down at it from above, there would be three letters: H, S, P.

Speaking of pastels: there are seven prints on the wall, the photo series “BACK!”. Each print was tinted in muted colors, a dream in gray, pastel pink or green. You can see a bucket full of black paint and read "BLACK". Beasley used to paint her sculptures with this black. So a look back? That remains to be seen.



Becky Beasley: Je dors, je travaille (Food II), 2021 / Je dors, je travaille (Encyclopedia of Photography), 2021 / Je dors, je travaille (Lucie Rie), 2021. Photo: Trevor Good.

As part of the exhibition, Beasley is showing her ceramics for the first time. She combines them with photos and various books, especially novels, but also artist biographies, guides and a lexicon are included. Under their glass hoods, the assemblages seem like a hodgepodge of personal memories. Constructs that give a vague impression of who the artist is or was.

Beasley's own positioning is an important part of the show: the 25-year-old photograph “Me as Andy” shows the artist with red lipstick and a Warhol wig and creates an exciting connection between self-discovery and self-portrayal. At the same time, the exhibition is by no means just about them: the connection to the visitors is established again and again. For example, based on the installation “Me & You”, which was created from 1975 to 2021 and consists of four low, table-like sculptures in the rearmost room of the gallery. As you walk around you almost feel like you are part of the installation, a huge, lively collage of life.



Becky Beasley, HSP (or Promising Mid-Career Woman), exhibition view, Galeria Plan B, Berlin, 2021. Photo: Trevor Good. Courtesy the artist and Plan B Cluj, Berlin.

The work is called “FRONT!” And is an example of the artist's approach: Beasley cut up a poster, turned it, painted over all the text with a black marker and combined it with other elements. Anyone who sees this approach as a metaphor for a fragmented, ramified, multi-faceted life may be right. But it also shows that Beasley analyzes things, looks at them from all sides and puts them into a large context. The exhibition therefore not only looks like a glimpse into the past, but also into the present - including its own location in the same. "HSP" is the strikingly sensitive documentation of a self-discovery and a new discovery, with which Beasley approaches half a life, her life.

WHEN: The exhibition "HSP (or Promising Mid-Career Woman)" runs until February 5, 2022.

WHERE: Galeria Plan B , Building G, 2nd backyard, Potsdamer Str. 77-87, 10785 Berlin.