

## PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, 26 May 2021

KONZERTHAUS BERLIN PRESENTS

# Bettina Pousttchi's site-specific installation *Amplifier* (2021)

26 May – 30 June, 2021

On the 26th of May 1821, Karl Friedrich Schinkel's newly built design for the Königliches Schauspielhaus was festively opened at Gendarmenmarkt. Exactly 200 years later, Konzerthaus Berlin celebrates its anniversary by unveiling the site-specific installation by Berlin-based artist Bettina Pousttchi on the main façade. The work invites visitors to take a fresh look at the building and question their own perceptions. Regardless of how the pandemic and public regulation develop, the artwork will remain visible to the public until June 30th.

The newly produced black-and-white façade installation *Amplifier* draws on Schinkel's architecture and the urban environment of Gendarmenmarkt. A frontal view of the portico reveals five photographically printed columns between the six familiar Ionic columns. Unlike the historic columns, Pousttchi's photographic columns extend beyond the first pediment, leading directly to the portico's higher second pediment. By altering the familiar dimensions, the installation changes the real perception of the building, creating a new experience of its own.

For the large-scale intervention, a special scaffolding covered with a digital photo print has been installed in front of the historic building. The image was created from photos that the artist herself took of the building before assembling them into a digital photomontage. The seemingly doubled row of columns creates a colonnade that recalls other Schinkel buildings such as the Neue Wache or the Altes Museum in Berlin.

"Nothing remains the same" is the recurring theme of the 2020/21 anniversary season at the Konzerthaus Berlin. Due to the pandemic, it was suddenly no longer just about the historical ruptures of the last 200 years, but also the planning and ultimately cancellation of numerous anniversary music projects. Konzerthaus Berlin adapted to the circumstances and decided to commission a work of art in public space to be experienced at any time – opening the institution up to the public.

**Bettina Pousttchi** (b. 1971 in Mainz) is internationally known for her site-specific photographic interventions in architecture, with which she has carved out a unique position in contemporary art.

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