



NEW RELEASE 2023

## Elina Brotherus Brotherus–Block–Beuys Planting Potatoes – Transformations

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Interviews with René Block, Elina Brotherus, Emil Schult  
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**New work by one of the most important contemporary Finnish photo artists**

The well-known Finnish photo and video artist Elina Brotherus (born 1972 in Helsinki) deals with iconic motifs from art history as well as with the reinterpretation of FLUXUS actions and event scores, the recordings of performances. In this context, the artist has also restaged Joseph Beuys' action *Kartoffelernte* (Potato Harvest), which originally took place in 1977 in front of the gallery of the important FLUXUS and Beuys companion, René Block.

From the view of a new generation of artists, Elina Brotherus looks at the performances, life and self-dramatisation of her predecessor. In her exploration of Beuys, she shifts perspectives and finds a feminine way of approaching the gestures of the iconic German artist.

Gallery owner, museum director and international curator, René Block, connects the two artistic personalities of Beuys and Brotherus who belong to different generations. He exhibited, collected and supported both at an early stage of their work through his gallery.

During various sojourns in Museum Schloss Moyland and the Joseph Beuys Archive, Elina Brotherus researched Beuys and Block, their actions, images and correspondence, as well as Beuys' long-time performance photographer, Ute Klophaus. At the end of her research, new photographs and video installations at places frequented by Beuys in the region as well as new works with René Block emerged.

These specific new productions will be shown for the first time at Museum Schloss Moyland and in this book, edited by Antje-Britt Mählmann for the Stiftung Museum Schloss Moyland Sammlung, Collection van der Grinten, Joseph Beuys Archive of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

**Elina Brotherus** (b.1972 in Helsinki) has worked in photography and moving image for more than twenty years. She is one of the most recognized contemporary artists from Northern Europe. Brotherus' art alternates between autobiographical and art historical approaches. Her early works on subjective experiences gave way to photographs dealing with the human figure and the landscape, the relation of the artist and the model.

Elina Brotherus lives and works in Helsinki, Finland and Avallon, France. She has been awarded, among others, the Artist Professorship Grant of the Arts Promotion Centre Finland (2022–2026), Carte blanche PMU, France (2017), the Finnish State Prize for Photography (2008), and the Prix Niépce of Gens d'image (2005). Her works are in over 80 public collections including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, LACMA, Los Angeles, and the Tangen Collection, Kunstsilo, Kristiansand.

Elina Brotherus started exhibiting internationally in 1997, for instance at Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Kunst Haus Wien, Vienna, Centre Pompidou and Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, Brooklyn Museum, MAXXI, Rome, Istanbul Biennial, National Art Center, Tokyo, and the Photographers' Gallery, London.

### Exhibition

*Elina Brotherus, Joseph Beuys and the gallerist René Block: Planting Potatoes — Transformations*  
Museum Schloss Moyland, Germany  
16.09.2023–25.02.2024

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## Press images



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02 Two Hats 2, 2023  
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03 Beuys Sweeping Stairs (Kunstakademie), 2023  
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06 Beuys with Guerilla Girls (Free International University), 2023  
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07 Kartoffellese, 2016 (nach | after: Joseph Beuys, Kartoffelpflanzen, 1977)  
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08 Pattern Forest, 2017  
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09 Beuys with Drone, 2023  
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10 Beuys in Venice (the Missing Picture), 2022 © Elina Brotherus / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



11 Flux Harpsichord Concert, 2017 (after: George Maciunas, 12 Compositions for Piano – for Nam June Paik, 1962, Composition no. 5: Place a dog or a cat (or both) inside a piano and play Chopin; and after: Flux-Harpsichord Konzert, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, organised by René Block, Sept. 3, 1976) © Elina Brotherus / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



12 Beuys with Shipwreck, 2023  
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