

## PRESS RELEASE

***Jimmy Robert***

***All dressed up and nowhere to go***

**October 28, 2022 - January 15, 2023**

Exhibition in the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

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November 23, 2022

## ***All dressed up and nowhere to go***

October 28, 2022 – January 15, 2023

### **Press conference: Thursday, October 27, 2022, 11 am**

Registration is requested: Anja Busam, [busam@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](mailto:busam@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de)

### **Opening weekend**

Friday, October 28, 2022, starting 6 pm    Opening

Saturday, October 29, 2022, 2 pm            Artist talk between Jimmy Robert and the  
curator Christina Lehnert

Sunday, October 30, 2 pm                    Curator's tour

### **Performance**

by the Class Jimmy Robert / Universität der Künste, Berlin

Friday, November 25, 2022, 6 pm            Public rehearsal

Saturday, November 26, 2022, 3 pm and 5 pm    Performance

*Somewhere to go* is a collective response to Jimmy Robert's body of work within his solo exhibition *All dressed up and nowhere to go*. The site-specific performance, conceived by the students of the class Jimmy Robert, reflects on visibility and invisibility, the relation between performer and audience and the interplay between bodies and architectural space.

Conceived and performed by Alina Amer, Arwa Azouz, Hannah Brandner, Naomi Niande Boima, Nadja Degen, Sarah Ama duah, Jared Marks, Holly Mia, Am Nasr, Carmen Ng, Lea Abena Pahl, Joachim Perez, Almitra Pyritidis and Kuba Stepien.

Since 2020 Jimmy Robert is Professor of Sculpture/Performance at the Institute of Art at the Universität der Künste, Berlin.

### **Guided tours**

Sunday, November 20, 2022, 2 pm

Sunday, December 04, 2022, 2 pm

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 2 pm

Sunday, January 08, 2023, 2 pm

Sunday, January 15, 2023, 2 pm

**Curators**                                    Christina Lehnert and Çağla İlk

**Curatorial Assistant**    Sandeep Sodhi

## Exhibition text

*All dressed up and nowhere to go* is a comprehensive solo exhibition by Guadeloupe-born French artist Jimmy Robert (\*1975).

Posing, dancing, dressing, voguing, or cruising: Jimmy Robert's works deal with different forms of movement, be they in art, queer culture, or public space. Movement is not neutral, but also says something about its actor: it is directed, unified, and becomes a marker in relation to society. As a public building, the Kunsthalle also prescribes various movements that are structured by its architecture: Strolling in the nineteenth-century park, towards the Kunsthalle, an Art Nouveau building, climbing up to the exhibition rooms via the representative stone- and finally marble staircase into the main hall and the course of the rooms of the White Cube.

Here the exhibition begins with a new installation designed by Jimmy Robert in collaboration with Studio Diogo Passarinho. Through large mirrored walls, it initially places the viewer at the center. The labyrinthine architecture formulates a stage and its backstage, a dressing room, a new space, and a trompe-l'œil image. It conveys an intimate emptiness in the exhibition space of the public institution, in which the visitors are initially confronted with themselves. The title *All dressed up and nowhere to go* thus poses the question of belonging, position, one's own gaze, and that of others. Clothing as costume, dressing and undressing, stage and backstage are ideas that run through the installation as well as the photo series created on-site. Performance, as a practice in the artist's oeuvre, is dissected here in time and space and can be experienced as an installation and as the site of a temporally displaced event.

Through a chronology of early to recent performance, photography, and film, the exhibition presents the artist's multimedia oeuvre over the last twenty years, revealing the network of recurring themes that preoccupy the artist in his work. The focus is on the body, mostly his own, in relation to different external structures: gaze and space. Through constant retelling, relating, and adapting, Robert becomes aware of the dynamics of visibility and attribution. What history and socialization do gazes have, or places? How does the gaze/place structure one's being?

For Robert, the body is this locus of inside and outside. It is both exposed to the politics of the outside gaze and a political body judged by its gender, race, and sexuality. Performance and filmic works such as *Brown Leatherette* (2002), *Vanishing Point* (2014), and *Imitations of Lives* (2019) play with this confluence and intersection of social space, architecture, and body. They construct the fabric of actor and viewer, space and movement in relation to place and its history.

## Vita

Jimmy Robert's multidisciplinary practice encompasses performance, photography, film and collage, frequently collapsing distinctions between these mediums. Robert's interest in how the body can be personified through materials and the reverse is a force that integrates his longtime work with performance with his larger practice. Robert has choreographed performance within exhibition spaces, in relation to existing architectural structures, as well as restaging, reframing or sampling historical performances. The frequent citation of moments from art history, film and literature is characteristic of his deeply layered narratives.

Jimmy Robert was born in Guadeloupe (FR) in 1975 and currently lives and works in Berlin. Robert was the subject of a mid-career survey at Nottingham Contemporary in 2020, which travelled to Museion, Bolzano and CRAC Occitanie, Sète. Recent solo exhibitions include Frammenti, Thomas Dane Naples; la musique dans la chambre, Künstlerhaus Bremen (2022); The Hunterian, Glasgow (2021); La Synagogue De Delme, France (2018); Museum M, Leuven (2017); Power Plant, Toronto (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2012); and Jeu de Paume, Paris (2012). Robert's performances have also been presented at Tate Britain, London; MoMA, New York and Migros Museum, Zurich. His most recent performance 'Joie Noire' premiered in 2019 at KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin and travelled to Kaaitheater, Brussels.

Forthcoming solo exhibitions include Moderna Museet, Malmo and Exposed, a project curated by François Piron between the Palais de Tokyo and the CND (Centre National de la Danse), shown in CND, Paris in Spring 2023.

## Press images

We can provide you with the following pictures in print quality for press purposes. Please contact us directly to request them: [presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](mailto:presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de)

Please note: When using the images, they should not be cropped and must not be overwritten with text. The respective captions are mandatory. Please note in any case the © of the images.



Jimmy Robert, Hanging II, 2010, © Jimmy Robert, Courtesy Stigter Van Doesburg and Tanya Leighton Gallery.



Jimmy Robert, Creole Earring II, 2021, © Jimmy Robert, Courtesy of the artist, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow. Acquired with Art Fund support.



Jimmy Robert, *Technique et Sentiment I*, 2021 © Photography: Gunter Lepkowski, Courtesy of the artist and Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Los Angeles.



Jimmy Robert, *Imitation of Lives*, 2017, Performance view: Performa 17 – The Glass House, Connecticut, Performers: NIC Kay, Jimmy Robert, and Quentin Stuckey, Pictured: Lucy McKenzie, Loos / De Bruycker marble, 2017 © Photography: Michael Biondo, Courtesy of the artist; Performa; The Glass House, and Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Los Angeles.

## Press contact

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## Information

Title and running time are subject to change. You can download our press kit and image materials at [www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse](http://www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse).

Detailed information on the program of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden can be found on the [Website](#).

## Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Open on all holidays except December 24 and 31.

## Prices

7€, reduced 5€, Friday free entry

## Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

Lichtentaler Allee 8a

76530 Baden-Baden

[www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](http://www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de)

The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.

**STAATLICHE KUNSTHALLE  
BADEN —  
BADEN**



**Baden-Württemberg**

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

November 23, 2022