

68th exhibition in Cologne: **Mary Bauermeister talks about her illness and death**

From Angelika bathing | 28.01.19, 08:02 o'clock



"I still have a few things to finish": Mary Bauermeister (84) was a guest in the city museum.

Photo: Banneyer

Cologne - Lively and energetic, she looks and brings a lot of humor. Mary Bauermeister is sitting there, telling stories about her turbulent life, and she immediately takes the audience with her in the crowded hall of the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum. And then she says abruptly, "I am dying of cancer, I have accepted that and am looking forward to it." She had been "over there" during an operation, in a state of bliss. She has no fear: "I call it changing levels."

As part of the 68er Bauermeister was a guest in the city museum. In the 1960s she helped shape the Fluxus scene, attracted artists and shaped an epoch. Her studio on Lintgasse was part of the avant-garde. ["I was young and beautiful and had fool's freedom as an artist,"](/region/koeln/koelndamals/die-68er-in-koeln--10--mary-bauermeister---ich-hatte-narrenfreiheit--31009466) (</region/koeln/koelndamals/die-68er-in-koeln--10--mary-bauermeister---ich-hatte-narrenfreiheit--31009466>) she told the Rundschau last year in her home in Rösrath.

"I have a few things left to finish"

She was especially looking forward to the evening at the Stadtmuseum, says the 84-year-old. "At the moment, I'm participating in a completely different way of life, concentrating on what no one else can." Her second book, "Paths and Errors," is in finalization. And in April, Mary Bauermeister wants to exhibit again in New York - in the city, where her paintings in the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim are admired. "I have a few more things to finish, but I look back with gratitude on my life. I have only done what I like doing my whole life. "

The artist lets her audience jump through the times this evening. "We came out of the cellars, and a black man threw candies out of a tank. That should be the enemy," she describes her postwar thoughts. Adults believe - never. Everything should be different. "We were red socks. Our mind-expanding drugs were hungry and yearning. "Her apartment on Lintgasse 28 in Cologne, not far from the cathedral, had become a meeting place for the "hunger artists "of the entire world, in all colors, across cultural boundaries: a melting pot for interdisciplinary, experimental Art.

Piano sunk in the Rhine

A sound composition by Simon Stockhausen accompanies the memories of his mother. "That would have been too cheesy for my father," says the son of the famous composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. "He did not like that attachment to a tonality because he was such a 12-tone fanatic."

To the music a scent of incense sticks moved through the room, a part of the sound art. "The hippie household Bauermeister / Stockhausen always smelled like it. "For me it has something to do with Love, Peace and Happiness, with this time." The combination of different art directions, music, painting, philosophy was always very important to Mary Bauermeister. When the co-founder of the "Fluxus Movement" opened her living room, works of art emerged that were primarily based on the creative idea. Even craziness had to be: "We have sunk a piano in the Rhine," she says. "When the piano hit the water there was a very special sound." Unfortunately only for a few seconds. The artist also remembers the four-handed piano playing Stockhausen / Bernstein - a happy meeting for her husband.

The thought of dying does not let Mary Bauermeister go. Finally, she comes back to it. She hopes she will have the time to go to New York. "Dying professionally is boring. I want to fill the time with things that make sense. "

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