



Thames & Hudson

Kurt Beers  
Foreword by Richard Cork

# BERTA FISCHER

b. 1973, Düsseldorf, Germany

Lives and works in Berlin, Germany

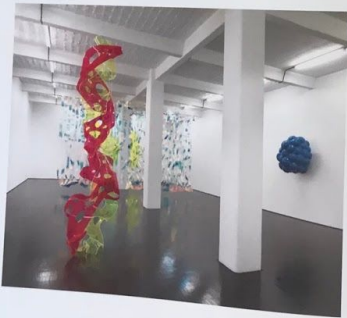
Studied at HZK Hochschule für Gestaltung, University of Arts and Design, Karlsruhe, Germany

Coiling upon themselves like organic life forms, the colourful, light-infused sculptures of Berta Fischer appear to dance through an exhibition space. Typified by their translucence, their neon colours, clean, glinting surfaces and hard edges, Fischer is keen that her works play with viewers' expectations. Many of her pieces resemble anthropomorphised plastic bags, lifted into animation and sparkling with life: the works of Dale Chihuly reimagined as something more playful, delicate and porous.

The artist's characteristic vibrant colours and inorganic materials are oddly reminiscent of natural imagery and matter; their forms seem to imitate the curling undulations of sea, a ribbon rippling in the wind or an electrified jellyfish pulsing

underwater. They are simultaneously fantastical, illusory, with a dreamlike, ethereal appearance.

Fischer is elusive when it comes to questions of her overall intentions. She has explored the properties of synthetic materials for years, testing, transforming and pushing the limits of their tendencies and stability. She is fascinated by their lightness and transparency, and the ways in which, through artificial, man-made media, one might be able to approximate ideas of immateriality, even transcendence or spirituality. Given the heightened eco-consciousness of today's world, her works perhaps also offer a subtle reminder of our use of disposable plastics, but ultimately they remain excitingly, radically open to interpretation.



500 Sculptures of Tomorrow

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Left: Installation view in  
St. Tüb., 2013, photo ©  
2013 Berta Fischer  
+ 245 x 275 x 1,1 meters  
2013, plastic, 30 x 180  
x 80 cm (120 x 60 x  
+ 110 cm), photo © 2013,  
Fischer, plaster and  
lucite, 107 x 88 x 88 cm  
142 x 141 x 13 cm

Opposite: Network, 2016,  
height, 160 x 200 x 150 cm  
(102 x 80 x 400 in.)

Related artist: Emma  
Kent, Nigel Lambert,  
Ludovic Gilette,  
Chawan Yukari



Berta Fischer

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Left: Installation view (l-r): *Tsutsu*, 2013, plexiglass, 528 x 87 x 60 cm (129 1/2 x 34 1/4 x 23 5/8 in.); *Shadow*, 2013, plexiglass, 530 x 568 x 30 cm (130 x 44 1/2 x 11 3/4 in.); *Phibus*, 2013, PU-foam, plaster and lacquer, 107 x 88 x 89 cm (42 x 34 3/4 x 35 in.)

Opposite: *Torowak*, 2016, acrylic, 260 x 230 x 116 cm (102 3/8 x 90 1/2 x 45 3/4 in.)

Related artists: Samara Scott, Virginia Leonard, Ludovica Gasca, Chelsea Culbert



Berto Fischer