

MOUSSE

Anna Franceschini
"NIGHTS OUT" at
Kunstverein
Gartenhaus, Vienna



In her practice, Anna Franceschini explores the multiple ways of displaying commodities. Underlying her observation of reality is cinema through its constituent elements: movement, light, framing, and editing. Performances, Xerox copies, kinetic sculptures, “bachelor(ette) machines”—which inject femininity into the Duchampian idea of apparatus—are, for the artist, “a cinema by other means.” Reversing the ends of the discussion about “cinema as machine,” she redirects the gaze toward the hypothesis of a “machine as cinema.” By creating sculptures intended as moving images, she turns commodities into quasi-living beings: devices whose subjectivity emerges only within a *mise-en-scène*.

Three dancing machines haunt KUNSTVEREIN GARTENHAUS’ blacked-out space, activating an array of choreographies. Human presence is signified by flowing wigs, which move seductively, automatically, disturbingly, or even pathetically, in compliance with the engineered artifacts.

Constructed as a theatrical body, *NIGHTS OUT*'s characters invite the public to consider how objects can take on meanings beyond the function for which they are designed. Following a sequence of incessant, repetitive, overwhelming, and weary gestures, Franceschini's animated beings seem on the verge of becoming, constantly renegotiating their purpose. The sculptures appear as unsettling traces of a relentless drive for productivity that erodes both economic structures and interpersonal bonds. The exhibition becomes a stage where the existence of technical agents and the fictive flicker of life are equally expressed.

NIGHTS OUT unveils the effects woven by capitalism, in an everlasting spin between labor and

desire. The sculptures call for a certain pressure to perform. Enhanced by a ferocious exuberance of movement, as much as an inevitable exhaustion, they expose that the spectacle presented by the artist is not a dreamscape, but a scenario we can relate to.

NIGHTS OUT at KUNSTVEREIN
GARTENHAUS is the first solo
presentation of Anna
Franceschini's work in Austria.
Premiering together with *curated by*,
the gallery-led festival, fostering
international critical discourse and
opening on September 5, 2025, it
can be visited during Vienna
Contemporary (11th – 14th of
September 2025), with curator-led
tours available during its opening
hours.

The publication *Machines Wear
Costumes*, edited by Attilia Fattori
Franchini and Ilaria Gianni, reflects
on Franceschini's oeuvre and will
be published in 2025 by LENZ
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Curated by:
Attilia Fattori Franchini and Ilaria
Gianni

at Kunstverein Gartenhaus, Vienna
until November 15, 2025