

Press release

Museum Folkwang

Rietlanden Women's Office (RWO). Museum Folkwang presents new exhibition in the 6 ½ Weeks series from 23 May

Essen, 9 May 2025 - From 23 May to 6 July 2025, Museum Folkwang is presenting the exhibition by Swedish artists Johanna Ehde and Elisabeth Rafstedt from Rietlanden Women's Office (RWO) as part of the 6 ½ Weeks series. The opening will take place on Friday, 23 May at 6.30 p.m. in the presence of the artists.

In *Banners for Heresies*, Rietlanden Women's Office (RWO) thematises both the former New York-based feminist magazine *Heresies* (1977-1993) and the term 'heresy' itself. **Johanna Ehde** (*1987) and **Elisabeth Rafstedt** (*1986) have appropriated this polemical term to illustrate their concept of graphic design, in which they combine and reactivate design elements, printing methods and work processes.

In their graphic design studio, they work with archive material from historical publications that were published as part of radical feminist activism against capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy in the second half of the 20th century. In their examination of historical sources, they trace how this attitude is reflected not only in the content, but also in the material itself - particularly in the prints of the late 1960s to early 1990s. RWO takes up this tradition: Women have their own means of production, write, design and print themselves. The result is multi-layered print products with visible traces of the manual process that convey urgent, resistant or concealed political messages. The result of this experimental practice is the self-published publication series *MsHeresies*.

The textile banners shown in the exhibition are created in a similar process. Ehde and Rafstedt emphasise format, composition and a painterly aesthetic. This can be seen in the monotypes, which they produce using digital sublimation printing and combine with text fragments. Type, which is worked with ornaments and embroidery and emphasises the improvisational moment of success and failure in the printing process as well as the design and publication, becomes an expression of collective feminist practice.

Johanna Ehde and Elisabeth Rafstedt were born in Sweden and now live in Amsterdam. They founded Rietlanden Women's Office there in 2018. Both are graduates of the graphic design department at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and teach book design and typography together at various institutions across Europe.

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6 ½ Weeks

The **6 ½ Weeks** exhibition format is based on short-term planning and offers young artists the opportunity to present their works at Museum Folkwang. It offers space for artistic and curatorial experiments and enables visitors to discover as yet unknown artists from different countries.

6 ½ Weeks is sponsored by the Sparda-Bank West Foundation for Art, Culture and Social Affairs.

Information

6 ½ Weeks

Rietlanden Women's Office

Banners for Heresies

23 May – 6 July 2025

Admission free

Opening

Fri, 23 May, 6.30 p.m.

6.30 p.m.: Rietlanden Women's Office. *Banners for Heresies*

Introduction: Thomas Seelig, Curator of the Exhibition

Reading Johanna Ehde and Elisabeth Rafstedt (RWO)

DJ-Set with Goo4you and bar with the support of Junge Kunstring Folkwang.



Rietlanden Women's Office

Printworks (Banner for Heresies), 2024

Monotype on fabric
appr. 120 x 75 cm

© RWO



Rietlanden Women's Office

MsHeresies #1-#6, 2018–2024

Iris Offset Print
each 29,7 x 19 cm

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