

Press Release

Pamela Rosenkranz

Old Tree

May 2023–September 2024

High Line, New York

Sprüth Magers

A transplant, a familiar yet alien object: Pamela Rosenkranz's monumental, bright red-and-pink sculpture *Old Tree* rises above Manhattan's High Line. From over 80 proposals, Rosenkranz's work has been selected for the third High Line Plinth commission.

In a process that involves merging scans of actual trees with those of human circulatory systems into a digital sculpture, a metal armature was fabricated on which layers of tactile polymer were applied by hand. Displaying visceral qualities, the tree's branches resemble the human organ system, and its vivid reddish-pink pigment reminds of blood circulating through live tissue. Citing the pink hues the artist uses across her works, she has developed a translucent gloss that coats the entire 25-foot-tall tree. The branches carry three different sizes of branchlets, the ends of which mimic the structure and arrangement of leaves that bear no lamina.

The sculpture references a widespread historical archetype common to many religions, mythologies and folktales wherein the tree of life represents, at times, the source of life itself or the cycle of life and death, connecting heaven and earth. Evoking metaphors for ancient knowledge and the relation between human and plant life, *Old Tree* also points to a future in which the synthetic has blended with the natural. With elements such as roots that appear to be crawling off the plinth, Rosenkranz's sculpture generates dissonance – a thing of beautiful strangeness.

Installed on the High Line – a public park built on a defunct elevated rail line – Rosenkranz's luminous *Old Tree* questions the boundaries between "artificial" and "natural" in our post-industrial cities. As she does throughout her practice, which encompasses painting, video and installation, the sculpture examines the human desire to anthropomorphize our surroundings in order to comprehend them. *Old Tree* is the artist's most prominent presentation in the United States to date and will be on view for 18 months.

Pamela Rosenkranz (*1979, Uri, Switzerland) lives and works in Zurich. She has held solo exhibitions at institutions including Kunsthau Bregenz (2021), Kreuzgang Fraumünster, Zurich (2018), GAMeC, Bergamo (2017), Fondazione Prada, Milan (2017), Kunsthalle Basel (2012), Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (2010) and the Swiss Institute, Venice (2009). Pamela Rosenkranz participated at several major international group exhibitions,

including the Okayama Art Summit (2019) and the 15th Biennale de Lyon (2019). Her project Our Product was selected for the Swiss Pavilion at the 56th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale in 2015. Recent group shows were held at Kunstmuseum Winterthur and MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge (both 2022), Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2021), Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2021), Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah (2020), MMK - Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2019), Garage Museum for Contemporary Culture Moscow (2019), Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2019), Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2018), Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk (2017) and Museo Espacio, Aguascalientes (2016).

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