Press release

The new show at the Thomas Schütte Foundation is cause for surprise: the internationally renowned stage and costume designer Anna Viebrock is exhibiting here from 30 August to April 2025. Her art is mainly at home in the theatre. Now she is creating an installation at the Skulpturenhalle, in which parts of a stage set and her models play a central role.

Since studying at the Düsseldorf Academy of Arts in the 1970s, Anna Viebrock has developed her own distinctive way of intertwining space, architecture and sculpture, for which she has received much acclaim in the world of the theatre. Now, for the first time, her approach can be appreciated in a solo art exhibition.

Viebrock’s unique stage sets are invented spaces that bear a striking resemblance to those in our real world, but go on to unfold enormous power within the enclosed cosmos of the theatre, on account of vestiges of the past, mild distortions or shifted proportions. She has developed the installation at the Skulpturenhalle by drawing on the stage set for GIUDITTA, an operetta premiered in Munich in 2021. Originally, the artist designed this set for the music theatre 44 HARMONIES FROM APARTEMENT HOUSE 1776 (Zurich, 2018). Both pieces were directed by Christoph Marthaler, with whom Viebrock has collaborated for many decades, thereby radically refreshing the theatre. The set included a large tiered space made up of turquoise wood-panelled walls and windows, along with a small stage that served as a square in a southern European city, an entertainment venue or a hotel bar. The small annex made of plywood was initially Giuditta’s wardrobe, while in 44 HARMONIES it became a chapel. In the Skulpturenhalle, Viebrock transforms this stage set into an installation, which, in the absence of a theatrical context, offers visitors new views and pathways.

The model for the GIUDITTA stage set will also be on display within the installation, along with some 30 other theatrical set models from the years 1986 to 2001.