



Part 3  
**ABOUT**

**WHO GIVES  
A SCHICHT**



## **Susanne Bleicher-Kaikkis M.A.(GER)**

runs the RESPCT.ME Gallery in Munich, where she brings together art and fair fashion. She organizes exhibitions and events and participates in the city's cultural events (Kultüren, Munich Jewellery Week, Munich Creative Business Week) with her own projects.

After completing her studies in pedagogy, psychology and sociology at the LMU Munich, she and her husband ran a graphics company with 120 employees for over 25 years and afterwards she supported a successful start-up in the area of digitalisation in marketing for five years.

Her private passion for fashion and the voluntary work at the Fair Fashion Forum Munich ultimately motivated her to found the gallery.

## **CLOTHES INTERACT**

with the people who wear them and with those they encounter throughout the day, and they are part of the constantly changing work of art in which we all participate: our streetscape. This provides more precise information about the state of our society than ARD's DeutschlandTrend: Are we careless or careful, loyal or tolerant, inclusive or elitist...?

I'm particularly interested in the creative moment in which a person takes a dress off the rack, decides to wear the blue belt with it today, nods, and takes it out onto the street. Just as I am thrilled to find special pieces, I am fascinated when a customer's eyes suddenly light up when they look in the mirror and they stand up a little higher with this flowing movement... A successful self-interpretation of course has to do with many factors that lie within the person, in their self-image often more than their external appearance, but also with what individuals perceive as relevant. Seen in this way, clothing is never just the status quo but always a manifestation of possible futures.

With the exciting selection of the RESPCT.ME Gallery, it is my aim to offer alternatives to the desolate mass/throwaway culture and the luxury market that have been aesthetically reduced to maximum global saleability. I encourage young talent and support labels that have chosen an independent, idiosyncratic path, so that this special offer will continue to exist in the future. Because you're not actually buying a dress: you're buying a newly discovered facet of your personality, a next year's ring in your personal development - and, yes, an individual (positive) message for the world!



## **Lieta Marziali, M.A. (IT/UK)**

is a jewellery artist and independent writer, researcher, curator and mentor.

She holds Bachelor's Degrees in English Literature (University of Surrey - Roehampton) and Three-Dimensional Design and Craft (Colchester School of Art), and a research practice-based Master's Degree (The Cass School of Art, Design and Architecture - London Metropolitan University).

For the past 15 years she has regularly been exhibiting, publishing and lecturing internationally.

## **"WISDOM AS PRACTICE"**

is how I define –using the words of contemporary philosopher Peter Sloterdijk—my practice, which spans making and writing, researching and curating, and mentoring and teaching. Importantly, these are for me just different manifestations, equally central to my personal and spiritual growth and the process of making me, or, as Italian writer Italo Calvino referred to literature, "an existential function, ... a search for knowledge". My methodology is then by default slow and mindful, not only of the provenance, destination and context of each project, but also of my natural cycles of thinking, making, writing and, most crucially, reflection.

My research interests have focused on:

- ideas and narratives of the found and of provenance;
- the intersection between search and research;
- reflection and reflective practice;
- the existentialist and phenomenological functions of art and its practice;
- the liminal aspects of art and its practice;
- the intersection between the personal, the social and the political; and
- theories of thinking as praxis.

My most recent research has been informed by further studies in anthropology, focusing mainly on aspects of collective and collaborative practices.

# RESPECT GALLERY

OPENING HOURS

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*LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!*