

In Berlin, Autumn's Art Shows Usher in an Anxious Changing of the Seasons

By [Martin Herbert](#) October 31, 2023 1:03pm



View of Ragen Moss's exhibition "CONSPIRE," 2023, at Captain Petzel, Berlin.

In her debut at Captain Petzel, Ragen Moss projects anxiety into the immediate future in a show titled "CONSPIRE." Here, seven dangling steel and glass canisters hold flickering flames that collectively bump up the room temperature a fair bit; each of them accompanies one of a constellation of seven hanging polyethylene sculptures, bulbous lightweight obelisks variously decorated with patterns and figurative imagery. One image, a possible clue to the work's latent sociopolitical intent, is a copy of a Käthe Kollwitz drawing. The show, then, feels like both an abstract campfire gathering—a conspiring, indeed, on the part of figures desiring or fearing change—and an unstable situation that might combust, for good or ill, at any moment. Its lack of specificity, and abundance of theatrical nudges, makes the viewer seeking meaning a coconspirator.