

## **Leiko Ikemura**

Location: Kurpark Engelberg

Japanese-Swiss artist Leiko Ikemura, who has lived in Europe since 1972, is known for her delicate, often dreamlike pictorial inventions that draw equally on European and Japanese cultural history. Instead of depicting the outer world, she wants to give an insight into inner worlds and make visible what is hidden therein: the approximate, the fleeting, the changeable.

On the occasion of *Backstage Engelberg*, her bronze sculpture *Usagi Greeting* is a guest in the Kurpark. Usagi means rabbit in Japanese, and the female rabbit she installed here is 4.50 meters tall and therefore anything but a cute pet. With her sweeping robe, the figure sits majestically enthroned in the park landscape like a fairy visiting from a distant wonderland. Her perforated, slightly open coat allows wind and weather to pass through while providing protection and security. When we enter, the figure mutates into a house whose permeable walls open up to nature, placing us in a state of suspension between inside and outside, earth and sky, this world and the hereafter. *Usagi Greeting* is open to associations and full of references, is a sculpture, a pavilion, a temple or a chapel, a place of contemplation and a view—and seen from a distance, the long-eared creature appears like an enigmatic and friendly ambassador of fantasy in the presence of our everyday life. (roe)

Leiko Ikemura, born in 1951 in Tsu, Japan, lives and works in Berlin and Cologne, Germany, and in Kanagawa, Japan. Recent exhibitions include Being Art Museum Shanghai, China (2023), the Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, Germany (2023), the National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Japan (2022), and the Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland (2019).

Further information: [leiko.info](http://leiko.info)