

Kunsthalle Basel Regionale 18 25.11.17 – 21.1.18

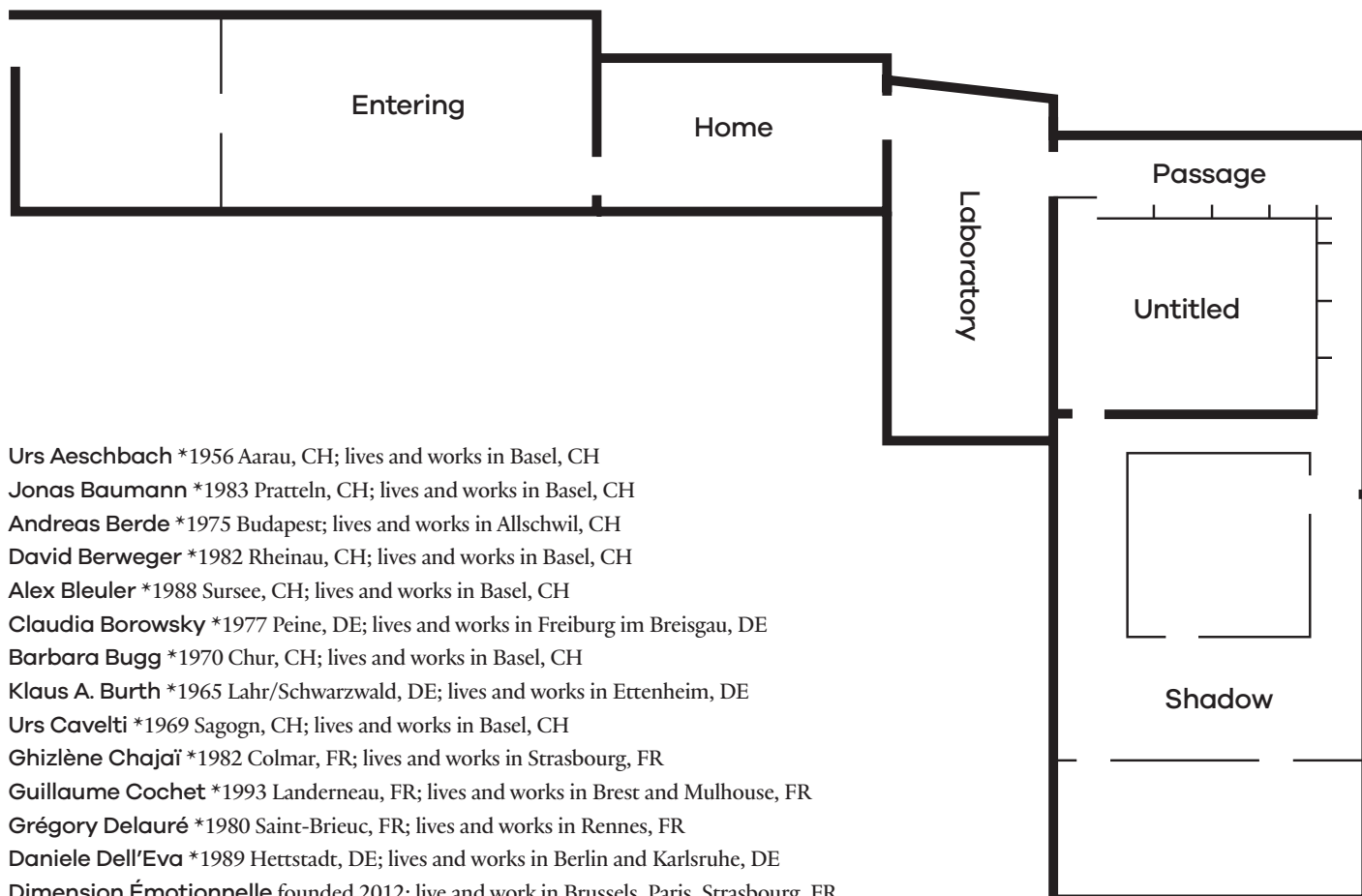
Object oriented ontology

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Urs Aeschbach
Jonas Baumann
Andreas Berde
David Berweger
Alex Bleuler
Claudia Borowsky
Barbara Bugg
Klaus A. Burth
Urs Cavelti
Ghizlène Chajai
Guillaume Cochet
Grégory Delauré
Daniele Dell'Eva
Dimension Émotionnelle
Christoph Dinges
Sara Gassmann
Yulia Goetsch
Laurent Guenat
Edith Hänggi
Tenki Hiramatsu
Yoshiya Hirayama
Kirti Ingerfurth
Daniel Karrer
Benjamin Lenz
Kris Markiewicz
Geneviève Morin
Hiroko Nagata
Franziska Neuenschwander
Katrin Niedermeier
Gerardo Nolasco-Rózsás
Tobias Nussbaumer
Eva Schick
Lisa Schittulli
Christian Schmuck
Henry Staschik
Jonas Studer
Paul Takács
Romain Tièche
Sara Ursina
Mathis Vass
Gina Weisskopf
Martin Wiese
Michel Winterberg
Paulo Wirz
Kerstin Wittenberg
Franziska Wüsten

The cloud of objects that organizes itself throughout the spaces of Kunsthalle Basel as part of the 18th edition of the Regionale was selected by guest curator Andreas Angelidakis from an open call and features artists from or affiliated with Basel and the tri-national region around it. What follows is an imaginative narrative by Angelidakis to accompany his exhibition and scenography, entitled OOO Object Oriented Ontology:

In their very organization, the exhibition's artworks incite ideas about being and becoming. The forty-six artists in this exhibition come from different generations and use an array of distinct mediums; their artworks have travelled from the dimension of ideas to the space that you, as a visitor, now share with them. With them they carry thoughts about how to exist in the world, and how the world changes us from one type of entity to another. They challenge the usual understanding of "we," suggesting that "we" means not only us humans, but also animals and inanimate objects, all equals. Ontology is the study of being, and object-oriented ontology is the philosophy attempting to understand our being beyond a human perspective. The world of *OOO Object Oriented Ontology* is a place where clear separations no longer exist, where knowing and not knowing, understanding and not understanding, liking and not liking are no longer binary. Just as in the classical Greek definition of philosophy, where *Σοφία* (wisdom) is something you can only travel towards, but never fully arrive at, the works in *OOO Object Oriented Ontology* summon us with their allure, without ever being fully decipherable. We, the visitors, are here to watch while these artworks reflect on each other, collide, and converse. They are objects and we are subjects, but perhaps after leaving the exhibition we will be objects, too; we will have somehow become part of the cloud permeating these rooms, and these expanded object relationships will continue to evolve in our minds.



- Urs Aeschbach *1956 Aarau, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Jonas Baumann *1983 Pratteln, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Andreas Berde *1975 Budapest; lives and works in Allschwil, CH
 David Berweger *1982 Rheinau, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Alex Bleuler *1988 Sursee, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Claudia Borowsky *1977 Peine, DE; lives and works in Freiburg im Breisgau, DE
 Barbara Bugg *1970 Chur, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Klaus A. Burth *1965 Lahr/Schwarzwald, DE; lives and works in Ettenheim, DE
 Urs Cavelti *1969 Sagogn, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Ghizlène Chajai *1982 Colmar, FR; lives and works in Strasbourg, FR
 Guillaume Cochet *1993 Landerneau, FR; lives and works in Brest and Mulhouse, FR
 Grégory Delauré *1980 Saint-Brieuc, FR; lives and works in Rennes, FR
 Daniele Dell'Eva *1989 Hettstadt, DE; lives and works in Berlin and Karlsruhe, DE
 Dimension Émotionnelle founded 2012; live and work in Brussels, Paris, Strasbourg, FR
 Christoph Dinges *1980 Villingen, DE; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Sara Gassmann *1980 Dagmersellen, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Yulia Goetsch *1987 St. Petersburg, RU; lives and works in Strasbourg, FR
 Laurent Guenat *1954 Biel, CH; lives and works in Les Bayards and Les Verrières, CH
 Edith Hänggi *1968 Basel, CH; lives and works in Basel and Hégenheim, FR
 Tenki Hiramatsu *1986 Wakayama, JP; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Yoshiya Hirayama *1984 Yokohama, JP; lives and works in Yokohama and Karlsruhe, DE
 Kirti Ingerfurth *1958 Duisburg, DE; lives and works in Hofgrund, DE
 Daniel Karrer *1983 Binningen, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Benjamin Lenz *1993 Basel, CH; lives and works in Basel and Hofstetten, CH
 Kris Markiewicz *1981 Olsztyn, PL; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Geneviève Morin *1963 Montreal, CA; lives and works in Basel, CH, and Hégenheim, FR
 Hiroko Nagata *1983 Shizuoka, JP; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Franziska Neuenschwander *1968 Bern; lives and works in Binningen, CH
 Katrin Niedermeier *1978 Munich, DE; lives and works in Basel, CH, and Weil am Rhein, DE
 Gerardo Nolasco-Rózsás *1975 Mexico City; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Tobias Nussbaumer *1987 Basel, CH; lives and works in Basel
 Eva Schick *1971 Starnberg, DE; lives and works in Basel and Riehen, CH
 Lisa Schittulli *1990 Bagnolet, FR; lives and works in Paris and Strasbourg, FR
 Christian Schmuck *1981 Ulm, DE; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Henry Staschik *1981 Darmstadt, DE; lives and works in Karlsruhe, DE
 Jonas Studer *1981 Muri, CH; lives and works in Basel, Brugg, and Wimmis, CH
 Paul Takács *1974 Yonkers, US; lives and works in Nussbaumen, CH
 Romain Tièche *1982 Delémont, CH; lives and works in Delémont and St. Louis, FR
 Sara Ursina *1991 Överjärna, SE; lives and works in Basel, CH
 Mathis Vass *1971 Zurich, CH; lives and works in Basel, CH, and Hégenheim, FR
 Gina Weisskopf *1968 Bucharest; lives and works in Pratteln, CH
 Martin Wiese *1958 Hagen, DE; lives and works in Oberried, DE
 Michel Winterberg *1972 Basel, CH; lives and works in Basel
 Paulo Wirz *1990 São Paulo, BR; lives and works in Zurich, CH
 Kerstin Wittenberg *1970 Freiburg im Breisgau, DE; lives and works in Rafz, CH
 Franziska Wüsten *1965 Schüpfheim, CH; lives and works in Reinach, CH

As is the tradition with the annual Regionale exhibitions, all works are for sale. Please ask the front desk for a price list, if interested.

The exhibition is articulated through the spatial sequence in this building; attempting to extend this sequence, thresholds and passages have been added. All of these are based on the notion that the moment we move from one space to another, we move from one condition, from one state of being to another, and then yet another. Most of the works in the exhibition are representations of beings, and by “beings” I mean humans, but also cats and frogs and dogs and maybe even fireplaces and ovens and machines. Arguably, the feelings we have while encountering an entity are entities, too. These “object feelings” have spatial properties and they are housed in our psyche. Every visitor will have different feelings about, and in, this exhibition, every recollection will be an entity, every memory a description of this exhibition.

One of the descriptions could start like this: a room is divided by a see-through wall. Two figures stand on each side of the wall, facing each other through a doorway. The figures seem to be humans from another dimension, caught in a conversation we cannot hear, except in our imagination. Around them, various artworks host other beings, in various states of transformation. This space appears to be an entrance of some kind, or a sorting area. I will call this first room **Entering**.

The next room appears to be domestic: a fireplace, candles, windows. Is this where the creatures seen in the first room live? Will they come back here at night, when the exhibition is closed? We could call this room **Home**, but only if we accept that a home is an entity independent from humans, that a room can be “home” even if the only thing that lives there is the idea of a home.

The space after **Home** is dark, and appears to be accommodating some kind of experiment. Perhaps this is a place where entities will attempt to develop multiple identities. A visitor might leave this room changed, as if having stepped out of a laboratory, through a brief moment in experimental time. Is time an object, too? Can you hold on to time? And does time take place when you are not there to experience its passing?

Leaving the room that we now call **Laboratory**, I am in a corridor outside a room, which I cannot yet see. A sound is present, but the source is invisible. I am neither inside nor outside this room. How can I be both inside and outside the same space? According to object-oriented ontology, objects do not have to be understood in order to exist, and so this corridor that is

inside and outside a room, is perhaps a different type of entity that does not have a name. But we will call this place **Passage**, just so that we can remember where we have been.

Through **Passage**, you or I enter a large room of cages and shadows, full of paintings of figures and their shadow-selves, objects, drawings, collages, more transitions and thresholds to go through. Could this be the last room on this itinerary? The entities living inside the works seem still to be busy in their becoming; their journey has not ended. They are present inside and outside of our understanding. Perhaps they are not objects at all: perhaps this is a site for shadows that project their own objects onto our plane of consciousness. This space makes me think of a theory by object-oriented ontology philosopher Quentin Meillassoux: A contradictory entity cannot possibly exist, because if it did, it would contradict its own existence. I am not sure if I remember this correctly, so I will call this room **Shadow**, because who would ever ask you to describe a shadow precisely?

Now I am in a room that feels familiar, it must be the space next to **Passage**. The place I experienced without entering. Is a room the same every time we enter it? If we were to enter a room over and over again, would the room feel the same every time? And even if it stayed the same, would it not be us that have changed, because one more experience of entering the room would have been added to our being? Let’s call this space the room without a name, or as they often say in the field of contemporary art, **Untitled**.

I decide to leave, and again I find myself passing through spaces that I already have passed through. I know that these spaces are no longer the same, because it is me who is no longer the same. I might be closer to another version of me, but the closer I get to the next me, I will always see yet another version of myself, waiting patiently in the distance.

Andreas Angelidakis is an architect, artist, and curator, born 1968 in Athens; he lives and works in Athens and Oslo.

OOO *Object Oriented Ontology* is part of Regionale 18 and curated by Andreas Angelidakis.

Regionale brings together eighteen institutions from three countries (France, Germany, Switzerland) presenting artistic positions from the region of Basel and the tri-national area (Alsace, Northwestern Switzerland, South Baden). Find more information about the Regionale and the participating institutions on regionale.org.

Thanks to Danai Anesiadou, Fabienne Blanc, Kateryna Botanova, Jurriaan Cooman, Lupo, Angelo Plessas, all partners of Regionale, and to all participating artists

This year's Regionale at Kunsthalle Basel is made in collaboration with CULTURESCAPES.

Kunsthalle Basel is supported by Kanton Basel-Stadt.

GUIDED TOURS THROUGH THE EXHIBITION

Every Sunday at 3 pm guided tour, in German

26.11.2017, Sunday, 3 pm
Curator's tour with Andreas Angelidakis, in English

EDUCATION / PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Kamera Lauft
5.12.2017, Tuesday, 6:30 pm
real eyes – realize – real lies, film premiere
at Stadtkino Basel, Klostergasse 5, in German
Kamera Lauft is an art education project in which young people deal with the exhibition through film. Under the title *real eyes – realize – real lies*, personal short films are created. Guests are welcome to visit the exhibition after the film screening.

6.12.2017–21.1.2018
Presentation of the short films at the Kunsthalle Basel bookshop

Artists' Talks

7.12.2017, Thursday, 6:30 pm
Artists' talk with Andreas Berde, Daniel Karrer, and Jonas Studer, in German

14.12.2017, Thursday, 6:30 pm
Artists' talk with Christoph Dinges, Sara Gassmann, and Katrin Niedermeier, in German

The artists' talks are part of the art education project *Perspektive Kunstvermittlung* and conducted by students from the Art History and Musicology Department, University of Basel.

Basel Museums Night

19.1.2018, Friday, 6 pm–2 am
Featuring *Macht die Kunsthalle Basel zu Eurer Buhne!*, a chance for our visitors to become an artwork and to perform; *Talk to me – I talk to you!*, in a private conversation you learn more about art; *JuJu's Juice Bar* with fruity drinks; performances by Florence Jung, Nils Amadeus Lange (at 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 pm), Jerome Leuba, Marta Margnetti, and Yves Scherer in the framework of the exhibition *PerformanceProcess. New Swiss Performance Now*.

More information at kunsthallebasel.ch