



## ***Haunted Haus***

**October 21, 2020 – January 3, 2021**

Including works by Melanie Akeret, Alfatih, James Bantone, Miriam Cahn, Maïté Chénière, Victoria Colmegna, Jesse Darling, Olivia Erlanger, Gabriele Garavaglia, Dorota Gawęda and Eglè Kulbokaitė, Haroon Gunn-Salie, Morag Keil, Milena Langer, Claire van Lubeek, Win McCarthy, Ivan Mitrovic, Alan Schmalz, Cassidy Toner, Gaia Vincensini, Andro Wekua

What is anachronistic about the ghost story is its peculiarly contingent and constitutive dependence of physical place and, in particular, on the material house as such.

-Frederic Jameson, "Historicism in *The Shining*"

SI is pleased to present *Haunted Haus* - a spectral space where bodies, images, sounds and smells fester and mingle. The group exhibition features works by 20 artists that reflect on the spirits we project into the world, the forces that insist without existing, and the anachronism and experience of haunting.

*Haunted Haus* draws on the concept of hauntology<sup>1</sup>, which has inspired various writers and thinkers of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including Mark Fisher, who described it in his 2012 essay "What is Hauntology?" as a haunting by lost futures that failed to happen. Haunting, Fisher writes, "happens when a place is stained by time, or when a particular place becomes the site for an encounter with broken time." Such residues are explored in this exhibition, as they cling to and animate spaces and things.

Unfolding and expanding over the show's duration, *Haunted Haus* will be installed across three floors of SI. One gallery is recast as an eerie domestic setting beset with flamboyant demons, paintings that laugh, and a melody that emanates from the abyss. Another explores the architecture of houses themselves, the stages on which the spectacles of our memories play, sticky with the remnants of history.

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<sup>1</sup> Hauntology, a word with phonic similarity to "ontology," is a term first coined by Jacques Derrida in lectures given at the symposium "Whither Marxism" at UC Riverside in 1993, later published as *Spectres of Marx* (1993). There, he discusses the particular ways that the "spectre of Communism," mentioned by Marx in the opening lines of *The Communist Manifesto*, would continue to haunt the world after "the End of History" (Francis Fukuyama, 1992). The concept found new resonance in the 2010s, particularly through the work of the British writer and critic Mark Fisher (1968-2017).

*Haunted Haus* is made possible in part through the SI Annual Exhibition Fund. SI wishes to thank the lenders to the exhibition: Amanda Wilkinson Gallery, London; Bel Ami, Los Angeles; Chapter NY; Gaudel de Stampa, Paris; Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels; Anne and Arthur Goldstein; International Flavors and Fragrances; and Galerie Philippzollinger. SI additionally wishes to thank Margaux Bosquillon de Jenlis, Penelope Bigelow, Jocelyn Wolff and Sandrine Djerouet.

## **Planning Your Visit and Safety Precautions**

Swiss Institute will allow a limited number of visitors at a time. Visitors are required to wear masks at all times and to keep six feet of distance to other visitors. Please check our website for the most up to date information: <https://www.swissinstitute.net/visit/>.

Swiss Institute will have hand sanitizer stations available for visitor use. Entry is free as always. Swiss Institute's hours are Wed/Thurs/Fri 2-8pm, Sat 12-8pm, Sun 12-6pm.

Please note: this exhibition contains loud noises, a fragrance and challenging subject matter.

## **About Swiss Institute**

Founded in 1986, SI is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new contexts for celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. Open to the public free-of-charge, SI seeks to explore how a national perspective can foster international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design and architecture.

SI Programming is made possible in part with public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Main sponsors include LUMA Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Friends of SI. SI gratefully acknowledges Swiss Re as SI ONSITE Partner, Vitra as Design Partner, Crozier Fine Arts as Preferred Shipping Art Logistics Partner, and SWISS as Travel Partner.

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