



**To the press**

**Vanessa Billy**

**«We Dissolve»**

**3 September – 13 November 2016**

Press preview: Friday, 2 September 2016, 12.30 p.m.

Opening: Friday, 2 September 2016, 6 p.m.

Whether popcorn, batteries, water or bronze – no material is too uninteresting for Vanessa Billy (\*1978, Geneva, lives in Zurich) not to use for research into sculpture and themes such as transformation and recycling. Her artistic work is poetic but at the same time remains anchored in the concrete physical qualities of the materials. Billy examines the cultural use of natural resources by contra-intuitively working on objects or placing them next to each other. For example, when a silicone lemon is confronted with a car engine. In the process the artist always investigates cycles in which humanity and technology are caught up. She asks what reactions follow actions, now or in the time continuum, and to what extent these influence our thought and behaviour.

Billy pursues these themes further at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen. She addresses the question of the meaning of human existence, what of being and action remains or fades away: an inner tube, breath or the surface of a banana skin. «We Dissolve» is then also the title of Vanessa Billy's largest solo exhibition so far in which she traces the title theme with confrontational forms. The soft cast of a woman lies on an engine, the body becomes a factory, produces energy which dissipates or incorporates itself in new channels. In this the artist also sees a peculiarity of the contemporary. People are advancing all the time technologically - but expanding and limiting themselves simultaneously while doing so. Social media spring to mind for example, or an engine that is both an artificial limb as well as a straightjacket. The artist gives us visual indications when fragments of surfaces are caught in a fishing net or a cage or objects are exposed to a balancing act.

In «We Dissolve» Vanessa Billy places the human more visibly at the centre than in previous exhibitions and points to the life cycle through sculpture and sound with new works. However, the artist's aesthetic style also emphasises the nature of space and surface: whether through the inclusion of architecture or her examination of the skin, which paradoxically separates the subject from the world but is nevertheless involved with it in an exchange of materials.

**Vanessa Billy** (\*1978 in Geneva/CH) studied at The Cooper Union School, New York, and at the Chelsea College of Art, London. Today she lives and works in Zurich. Solo exhibitions (selection): BolteLang, Zurich (2016); c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e, Brussels (2015); Limoncello, London (2015); Collective Gallery, Edinburgh (2014); Kunsthaus Baselland, MuttENZ (2011). Group exhibitions (selection): Project 1049 LUMA Foundation, Gstaad (2016); Institut d'Art Contemporain, Villeurbanne (2015); Kallmann Museum, Ismaning (2015); Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau (2012); SMOCA, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona (2012).

**Events and Educational Programme:**

**Opening**

Friday, 2 September 2016, 6 p.m.

**Guided Tour I/Introduction for Teachers**

Tuesday, 6 September 2016, 6 p.m.

**Museum Night**

Saturday, 10 September 2016, 6 p.m.

**Art for Young and Old – Inventing stories together**

Sunday, 2 October 2016, 2 p.m.

Admission: Regular admission for adults/CHF 5 for children from 5 years-old; registration until 29 September at: [beck-woerner@k9000.ch](mailto:beck-woerner@k9000.ch)

**Art Lunch – Guided tour followed by lunch**

Thursday, 6 October 2016, 12 noon

Admission: CHF 25/members CHF 22; registration at [info@k9000.ch](mailto:info@k9000.ch)

**Painting Afternoon – For children from 4 to 8 years-old**

Wednesday, 26 October 2016, 2 p.m.

Admission: CHF 5; registration until the previous day at: [info@k9000.ch](mailto:info@k9000.ch)

**Art Snack – Short guided tour and a snack**

Thursday, 3 November 2016, 12.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 10/members CHF 7; no registration required

**Guided Tour II**

Sunday, 13 November 2016, 3 p.m.

**Workshops for School Classes**

From 7 September on we are offering workshops at the exhibition.

More information: [www.k9000.ch](http://www.k9000.ch) (Art Education/Workshops for Schools)

**High-resolution images can be found in the press kit on our website (Information/Press). For further questions please contact Giovanni Carmine ([carmine@k9000.ch](mailto:carmine@k9000.ch)) or Salome Hohl ([hohl@k9000.ch](mailto:hohl@k9000.ch)).**

The Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen is supported by St. Gallen City Council, Kulturförderung Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, Migros-Kulturprozent, Martel AG, St. Galler Tagblatt. The educational programme is made possible by Raiffeisen and Kulturförderung Appenzell Ausserrhoden.

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Opening times:  
Tues to Fri 12 noon – 6 p.m.  
Sat & Sun 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.