



On Half a Tank of Gas

Various Locations, New Glarus, Wisconsin

Organized by Swiss Institute and Kunsthaus Glarus

October 13-15, 2017

With works and performances by Olga Balema, Lorenzo Bernet, Sarah Burger, Valentin Carron, Christina Forrer, Simon Fujiwara, Bradley Kronz, Miriam Laura Leonardi, Paul McCarthy & Mike Kelley, Gianni Motti, Selina Grüter & Michele Graf, Yannic Joray & Daniel Horn, Chadwick Rantanen, Elda Schiesser, Roman Signer, and Shirin Yousefi.

Swiss Institute and Kunsthaus Glarus are thrilled to present a village-wide project that will take place in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Self-described as “America’s Little Switzerland,” New Glarus is a rural town where a group of economic migrants from Glarus, Switzerland, moved in the mid-nineteenth century, fleeing deteriorating economic conditions at home.

With its title taken from a flyer for a local business advertising that one can “Visit Switzerland...On Half a Tank of Gas!”, the project explores New Glarus as an unusual place of cultural crossover between America and Switzerland. The particular history and culture of the village is the central point of departure for the project, which explores migration, economic development, and the heritage and tourism industries that preserve and market a sense of place. Swiss Institute and Kunsthaus Glarus have invited contributions from a number of artists from Switzerland, Wisconsin and elsewhere, who have approached such histories through material concerns, ranging from hunting equipment and tapestries to fragrances and fireworks.

Exhibition venues include: Citizens Banks Building, Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum, Puempel’s Olde Tavern, SwissLand Miniature Golf, and the New Glarus Village Park.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, October 13

5-8PM: Exhibition open to visitors. Please note last entrance at Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum is at 7:30PM.

Saturday, October 14

12PM: Curators' introduction and welcoming remarks at Citizens Bank Building.

12PM-6PM: Exhibition open to visitors. Please note last entrance at Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum is at 3:30PM.

2PM: Michèle Graf and Selina Grüter's performance, *Contra Dance* (2017), takes place at Citizens Bank Building.

6:30PM: Lorenzo Bernet's Catherine Wheel sculpture (2017) will be lit in celebration of the project in the Village Park.

7PM: Cheese and wine reception at the Chalet Landhaus Inn. To attend, please RSVP to rsvp@swissinstitute.net.

Sunday, October 15

10AM-2PM: Exhibition open to visitors.

Special thanks for the warm welcome, support and advice of: Beth Zurbuchen and the Board of the Swiss Center of North America; Roger Truttmann, Bryan Gadow and the Village of New Glarus; Michael J. Bell and the team at the Chalet Landhaus Inn; Don and Melissa Berg; Susie Weiss; Matthias Kunz, Heather Engwall and Tony Zraggen of Emmi Roth; Sandy Blum; and Chuck and Lessia Bigler. Thanks also to the lenders to this exhibition: David Kordansky Gallery, Electronic Arts Intermix, Hauser & Wirth, and Rainbow in Spanish.

During the reconstruction and refurbishment of Swiss Institute's new building in the East Village, the institution is programming offsite with a number of projects that reach beyond traditional or standardized exhibition spaces. As part of the institution's mission to foster cross-cultural dialogue and explore transnational identity and exchange, *On Half a Tank of Gas* is a collaboration with Kunsthaus Glarus.

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