

SWEETWATER,

City's

Farah Al Qasimi, Monika Baer, Christa Dichgans, HC, Gaby Sahhar,
Ari Sariannidis, Hanna Stiegeler, Matilda Tjäder & Ewa Awe
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An excerpt from the script of Matilda Tjäder & Ewa Awe's *City's*:

...and then I woke up, to the same darkness, with marks on my palms, from my clenching fists and my nails' imprints. It was like a pattern, of an eye or something. I looked into it and out of my palm a round sphere arose. It looked like a commercial center of some kind. A mall perhaps. There was an entrance. Above it a sign, it read:

City's

"Let's move into a mall!"

"Big cities are targets because people admire them. Like a magnet to gravitate towards. For interaction. It's a push and pull that embodies those who inhabit it."

"Find a pulse through these nodes, with your headphones on the speed becomes levelled and your own breath is concealed by the city's bass."

"The city becomes your real-time music video, a one-liner and a million contradicting feelings at once. We all have a psychotic relationship to the cities we live in."

"Therefore *City's* was built. To encompass conflict. Like the eye of the storm. Outside of it there was chaos. But within *City's* there was a degree of tranquility, an aspect of perfection, a fairy tale with absent protagonists, just environment, paint-brushed furniture, double exposure so that all surfaces became two, at least, like, a looking glass – a cubicle in someone's hand, just spin it between your fingers."

"There's this old saying, that once you've reached *City's* there's no need to return back. She's like a thinking machine, programmed to please your needs, she's like a custom made divination, serving you all your prophecies in paper-wrapped lies."

"The question would be: do we do our hair or nails first?"

"My back hurts. My neck has been hurting a lot."

"Something also happened to time. Thousands of unfinished and ragged thoughts started swirling around. Words and images were pouring out of them like grains of sand but as soon as I wanted to hold on to one, it was already too late. It was taking so long to make sense of it all. An hour or more had passed and I was still trying to locate my phone to order an Uber and make it home but it was an impossible mission."

"*City's* is all eyes and ears, but it's pleasant. Nothing escapes and everything gets fixed instantly. Reversed into its natural order by the return of dawn."

SWEETWATER,

Farah Al Qasimi (*1991, Abu Dhabi) lives and works in Brooklyn and Dubai. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; the San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco; the CCS Bard Galleries at the Hessel Museum of Art, New York; Helena Anrather, New York; The Third Line, Dubai; The List Visual Arts Center at MIT, Cambridge; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto; and the Houston Center for Photography, Houston. Al Qasimi received her MFA from the Yale School of Art. Her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; and NYU's Grey Art Gallery, New York.

Monika Baer (*1964, Freiburg im Breisgau) lives and works in Berlin. In 2020, Baer was awarded the Hannah Höch Prize by the State of Berlin. Solo exhibitions include, among others, Kunsthalle Bern (2021, forthcoming); Greene Naftali Gallery, New York (2021); Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (2020); Kunstmuseum Bonn (2019); Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover (2016); Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach (2016); Art Institute of Chicago (2013); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2006); Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2005).

Christa Dichgans (*1940, Berlin; †2018, Berlin) was a German painter. In 2018, she had a major retrospective at the Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover. Other solo and group exhibitions include MAMAC, Nice (2020); Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin (2019); Museum Würth, Künzelsau (2018); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main (2014); Kunsthalle Wien (2010); The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA (1989); Musée d'Art de Toulon (1986); Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1985); Städtisches Kunstmuseum Bonn (1979); Düsseldorfer Kunsthalle (1978); Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (1977). Her work is held in the public collections of Kirchliches Museen Würzburg Kunstmuseum Bonn, Kunstverein Schloß Wertingen, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Sammlung des Deutschen Bundestages, Berlin, Städtische Galerie Viersen, among others.

HC is a collective founded in 2016 by Friedemann Heckel (*1986, Hamburg; lives and works in Berlin) and Lukas Müller (*1986, Kassel; lives and works in Frankfurt). Solo exhibitions include *Non Dentro Ma Intorno A Noi*, Damien & The Love Guru hosted at CFA Live, Milan (2021); *Damien & The Love Guru*, Priya Shetty Gallery, Brussels (2019); *Transparencies*, Sauvage, Bonn (2018); *Die Lange Weile*, Lucas Hirsch, Düsseldorf (2018); Bob's Pogo Bar, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2017); *Incident by HC*, Kunstsaele, Berlin (2016).

Gaby Sahhar (*1992, London) is a French-Palestinian artist who lives and works in London. Their recent exhibitions include *Inner City Pressure*, SPACE Studios, Ilford, London (2021); *Second Home*, Sweetwater, Berlin (2019); *Origins*, Almanac Projects, Turin (2019); *Totally Different Animals*, Arcadia Missa, London (2018); and *I am*, Play-Co, London (2018). They are also the founder and director of Queerdirect, a London-based LGBTQI+ artist advocacy network and curatorial platform that has collaborated with Tate, Somerset House, and Studio Voltaire, among others.

Ari Sariannidis (*1986, Berlin) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include, *A Selection of Board Game Designs and Two Sculptures*, Sangt Hipolyt, Berlin, (2021); *A formula for generating an exhibition of sculptures at random*, pdvn, Berlin (2020); *No sense of place, only a mirror for reflection*, Kunsthall Ved siden Af, Svendborg (2019); *void*, Liszt, Berlin (2019); *Neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of night...*, GernEnRegalia, New York City (2018), among others.

Hanna Stiegeler (*1985, Konstanz) lives and works in Berlin. Recent exhibitions include *Tacet*, Gems, New York (2021); *Centerless space*, Sweetwater, Berlin (2020); *There is no hierarchy in climax*, Gewölbekeller, Konstanz (2019); *ICI ET LA BAS*, Goethe Institut, Paris (2019); and *Access*, PiK Deutz, Cologne (2019). Stiegeler completed her Meisterstudium at HGB Leipzig and also studied at UdK Berlin and Art Academy Warsaw.

Matilda Tjäder (*1989, Malmö) works with text and sound that is directed, performed, and sculpted into varying forms of media. She holds a MA in Cultural Studies from Goldsmiths, University of the Arts. In 2020 she cowrote/directed/starred and scored the film "The Strait: A Nordic Noir Pilot" which was exhibited at Delfi, Malmö (2020) and Bizarro, Copenhagen (2021). Other recent projects include performances at Cell Project Space, London (2018), Damien & The Love Guru, Brussels (2019), and LACA, Los Angeles (2019). Her album of new compositions and fiction will be released with HTSU Cooperative in July 2021. Together with Emilia Thorin she curated the performance program for Pride Park in Folkets Park, Malmö as part of WorldPride Copenhagen 2021.

Ewa Awe (*1995, Lublin) is the DJ and performance moniker of Ewa Poniatowska, whose practice at the moment explores various forms of sonic-storytelling. She received a Masters from Royal College of Art in London and has performed at Tate Modern and Beursschouwburg, Brussels, with recent exhibitions including *Scrolling the System*, Zacheta, Warsaw and *Casting the Runes*, London. In September 2020, she led 4 sound walks as part of 3HD festival in outdoor location in London.