

Nicl Barbro – Far From Home

feat. Nicola Hartlef and Katie Richardson

Hinterconti, Hamburg/ Germany
15.- 17.10.21

invited by Alex Hojenski
text by Alex Hojenski
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performance and choreography: Nicola Hartlef and Katie Richardson
concept of performance: Nicl Barbro

<https://vimeo.com/643850025/71ad366596>

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<http://www.hinterconti.de/blog/2021/10/nicl-barbro-far-from-home-15-17-10/>

Elements of a home leave the inhabited space and go into the blue. Cool and uncertain, it dissolves the separation to the outside.

Before, the familiar home: nestled in warming certainty. Forms of community, identities, salary classes and lifestyles manifest themselves in the choice of living spaces and furnishings that surround us. Someone is born into them. They age with us and are eventually inherited, sold or left behind. A new life leaves behind old furniture.

Their facial expressions reflect what they have seen and what they really want. There are front doors that have attitude, that greet and speak. If the windows are the eyes of a house, the door is the mouth.

Independently and emancipated leaving the former living space, they are no longer subject to the rules of behavior and manifestations of commodities. They have moved out and become harder.

Stripped of their function, swing-high and feet the sky have great things in store. Their independence beyond the bourgeois family home opens up the history of meaning of their formal language over hundreds of years and beyond. Door frames can assemble their own identity: Swinging doors with wide pant legs and minimalist slippers have lost their grip to stand on their own two feet. Instead of being built into a wall, they lean against it balancing on stilts.

Taking a break, gaining momentum?

I see myself surrounded by doors. Often marking possible junctions and new paths, none of these doors promise me passage. The white of the walls behind them is colored by the colored light and almost dematerialized. Digital, blue flickering. Daring something new always brings with it the uncertain, the uncanny. The Hinterconti is staged as an in-between space - the entrance door stands open, downstairs the stairs lead as an open passage: in 'Far From Home' one finds oneself outside, in front of the doors and yet inside their realm.

The wooden floor mats on the floor mark the space as an entryway. They were never soft and appear heavily worn from scuffing and stomping shoes. Hard mats for energetic footfalls. Only the outlines of detached letters are still visible like a washed out slogan on an old sweater.

Science fiction can with tradition as folklore can with craft.

Hand over your jacket to the surly coat rack or better keep it yourself.

The wooden floorboards of the stairs creak. Footsteps go up and down as they are wont to do. The treading of a territory. The footsteps spread out and settle in the center of the room. Steady tapping sets a beat, which is answered from below by swarm-like patter. What follows is a loud, sometimes heated debate, a conversation of soles choosing their position on and next to the mats to exchange ideas and switch between spaces and roles. Again, it is a balancing act to stand on their own two feet and strike the right tone. They disharmonize, unite in unison, and break away to solo.

Far From Home sets up in the rooms of hintercontis and a week later opens the won terrain for more guests. Weavers are known for being social creatures. Rather than spinning their own webs, they prefer to settle into

found chambers and are always on foot. As friends on the move, a group from Hamburg, Berlin and Leipzig come together Nicl Barbro invites.

The solo show 'Nicl Barbro - Far From Home' was open up to 'Weberknechte'.

Nicl Barbro works and lives in Hamburg/ Germany. She studied at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and HfBK Hamburg. Her works were part of exhibitions and projects at Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof (2021), Fleetstreet theatre (2020), Kunsthaus Hamburg (2018) and Real Positive, Cologne (2018). In her work she deals with a personal, social and domestic feeling of thresholds and borders in daily life. She wonders where humans still find existing thresholds, in which way inner and outer limits are kept up and what benefit or damage comes when they are crossed.

List of works:

1. exhibition view
2. exhibition view
3. *'swing-high', 2021*
lime and pine wood, wrapping paper, leather
4. left: *'feet the sky', 2021*
right: *'X', 2021*
lime and pine wood, wrapping paper, leather
5. *Detail*
6. *Detail*
7. *no title*
multiplexplate, stain, acrylic
8. *'Guten Tag', 2021*
steel, lime wood, cardboard, paper, acrylic
9. *Detail*
10. *no title*
wood, stain, acrylic
11. *Detail*

Video Performance: <https://vimeo.com/643850025/71ad366596>