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Sophie Carapetian  
*Refuse to Collaborate*  
 19.02.–26.03.2022

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Der Ausstellungstitel *Refuse to Collaborate* spielt mit der Mehrfachbedeutung von *Refuse*: Als Verb bedeutet *Refuse* «verweigern», «ablehnen», etc., als Substantiv «Abfall», «Müll» und «Unrat». *Refuse to Collaborate* bedeutet also «Verweigern zu Kollaborieren» oder auch «Abfall zum Kollaborieren». Sophie Carapetian ist Künstlerin, Buchgestalterin und Schriftsetzerin. Sie arbeitet mit günstigen und massenreproduzierten Materialien. In *Refuse to Collaborate* erstreckt sich ein Raster aus weissen Abfallsäcken über die gesamten Wände, Decken und Fussböden der Stadtgalerie. Es desorientiert, während es die Körper gleichzeitig in seinem Koordinatennetz aus Müll vermisst. Augen an den Wänden werfen ihre schlängelnden Blicke durch diesen Raum. Das Raster bedeckt die weissen Wände und macht die ökonomische Logik sichtbar, die alles Soziale strukturiert, die alles zu einer immensen Anhäufung von Waren macht und deren Hauptprodukt Arbeit und Arbeitslosigkeit ist – die Reduzierung unzähliger Leben auf Abfall. Die Werke der Ausstellung sind Zeugnisse und Teil des Widerstands und der Organisation der Künstlerin, anderer Künstler\*innen, Poet\*innen und Theoretiker\*innen gegen dieses System. Während zehn Jahren sind Bücher und Druckephemera in dieser Zusammenarbeit entstanden, die Gedichte und historische, theoretische und fiktive Texte beinhalten, die als Teil der Ausstellung zu sehen sind. Begleitend ist die gleichnamige Publikation *Refuse to Collaborate* entstanden, die im Vorfeld der Ausstellung per Postversand an alle Abonnent\*innen versendet wurde, und in der Stadtgalerie gratis aufliegt. Sophie Carapetian lebt – wie sie sagt – in dem, was von London übriggeblieben ist.

The exhibition *Refuse to Collaborate*, plays with the multiple meanings of “refuse”: as a verb, refuse means to decline, to reject and to ignite etc., as a noun it means waste, garbage, or debris. *Refuse to Collaborate* therefore means “decline to collaborate” as well as “waste to collaborate.” Sophie Carapetian is an artist and typesetter. She works with inexpensive and mass-produced materials. In *Refuse to Collaborate*, a grid of white trash bags stretches across the walls, ceiling, and floor of the Stadtgalerie. It is disorienting while simultaneously measuring the bodies of viewers against its grid of refuse. Eyes on the walls cast their meandering gazes through the space. The grid covers the room, making visible the economic logic that structures all that is social, that makes everything into an immense accumulation of commodities, and whose primary product is work and worklessness—that is, the reduction of countless lives to waste. The works in the exhibition are testimonies to and part of the resistance and organizing of the artist, other artists, poets, and theorists against this system. Over a ten-year period, these collaborations have generated books and print ephemera, including poetry and historical, theoretical, and fictional texts, which are also on view in the exhibition. Accompanying this is another publication, *Refuse to Collaborate*, which was sent out to all mailing-list subscribers prior to the opening and is available free of charge at the Stadtgalerie. Sophie Carapetian lives—as she says—in what is left of London.

Stadtgalerie  
 PROGR  
 Waisenhausplatz 30  
 3011 Bern  
 stadtgalerie@bern.ch  
 www.stadtgalerie.ch

Öffnungszeiten  
 Mittwoch–Freitag  
 14–18 Uhr  
 Samstag  
 12–16 Uhr

Opening hours  
 Wednesday–Friday  
 2–6pm  
 Saturday  
 12–4pm

## Veranstaltungen

### *Eröffnung der Ausstellung*

Freitag, 18.02.2022, 17–21 Uhr

### *Rundgang durch die Ausstellung*

Donnerstag, 24.03.2022, 19 Uhr

## Events

### *Exhibition Opening*

Friday, 18.02.2022, 5–9pm

### *Public Guided Tour*

Thursday, 24.03.2022, 7pm

### *Mitwirkende / Contributors*

Jacob Bard-Rosenberg

John Barker

Michel Bayer

Luca Beeler

Lucy Beynon

Sean Bonney

Anya Buechele

Andrea Bracher

Sophie Carapetian

Jean Cristofol

John Cunningham

Sam Dolbear

Vincenzo Döring

Koshka Duff

Valérie Gosteli

Michèle Graf

Selina Grüter

Matt Hall

Louis Hartnoll

Danny Hayward

Lisa Jeschke

Urslé von Mathilde

MYSTI

Daniel Neofetou

Will Rowe

Christoph Studer

Nick Thoburn

Carmen Tobler

Marina Vishmidt

Mirabel Wilson

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Kultur  
Stadt Bern

*SAALPLAN/MAP:*

RAUM 1/ROOM 1:



*Bad Feelings - Arts Against Cuts*  
Artwork with Lucy Killoran  
(despite) Bookworks



*General Equivalent #1*  
Artwork with Stephan Sadler



*EPS Vol. 1 No 26.*  
In collaboration with Tom Allen  
Earthbound Press



*Striae*  
In collaboration with Toothrust  
Cherche Encore



*an inquiry into how to live when the future is forclosed*  
In collaboration with Koshka Duff  
Veer



*In Boiling England*  
In collaboration with Cole Denyer



*Arcades (Red, Blue, Yellow)*  
Artwork with Lucy Killoran

*Heavy Water*  
In collaboration with Ed Luker  
(unprinted)

RAUM 2/ROOM 2:



*Automaton*

The story is told of an automaton constructed in such a way that it could play a winning game of chess, answering each move of an opponent with a countermove. A puppet in Turkish attire and with a hookah in its mouth sat before a chessboard placed on a large table. A system of mirrors created the illusion that this table was transparent from all sides. Actually, a little hunchback who was an expert chess player sat inside and guided the puppet's hand by means of strings. One can imagine a philosophical counterpart to this device. The puppet called 'historical materialism' is to win all the time. It can easily be a match for anyone if it enlists the services of theology, which today, as we know, is wizened and has to keep out of sight. ( On the Concept of History, Walter Benjamin )

RAUM 2/ROOM 2:

Books:



*Arcades (Red, Blue; Yellow)*  
Artwork with Lucy Kiloran



*In Boiling England*  
In collaboration with Cole Denyer



*an inquiry into how to live when the future is forclosed*  
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*General Equivalent #1*  
Artwork with Stephan Sadler



*Bad Feelings - Arts Against Cuts*  
Artwork with Lucy Kiloren



*Feelings I/II*  
In collaboration with Danny Hayward  
Shit Valley



*Ludd Gang*  
In collaboration with The Poetry Hardship  
Fund



*A Blind Eye Turned*  
In collaboration with Howard Slater and Gabriel Humberstone  
CESURA // ACCESO



*Not A Sputnik For Two*  
In collaboration with John Barker



*How To Win*  
Tories Out Propaganda Unit

RAUM 2/ROOM 2:

Books:



*Tracksuits, Traumas and Class Traitors*  
In collaboration with D. Hunter  
Lumpen



*Writer Astray*  
In collaboration with John Barker



RAUM 3/ROOM 3:

*The Boycott*

Mit/With

Darsteller\*innen/Presentations (acting);



Orianne Journo

Justin Kato



Rona Lorimer

Score:



Richard Hames  
(composition)



James Malone  
(performance)

AUF DIE ARBEITENDEN\*!/UP THE WORKERS!



Luca Beeler



Christoph Studer



Valerie Gosteli



Ivan Mitrovic



Michael Bayer



Nicolle Bussien