

Luzie Meyer

Lasciatemi morire

Opening: June 26th, 2021

Until October 2nd, 2021

*The best form is no form at all
and that is the form that we will have when we are ready¹*

Once the author is dead, what happens to character?

How do we understand the formation of subjectivity and identity through language when faced with the obsolescence of a fictional construct?

Marta² and Cathy³ meet on stage.

Their biographies are fictionalized, interweaved with received ideas and a repertoire of clichéd projections of the self.

Their characters, entangled, oscillate in a continuous dialectic between the individual and the universal, the authentic and the constructed.

Death is hovering above them. Invoked, rehearsed, mourned, deferred, it fails to deliver its romantic promise of redemption.

We are all participants in this theater: in truth we never shall die when death happens. We only die as actors. Could that be eternity?⁴

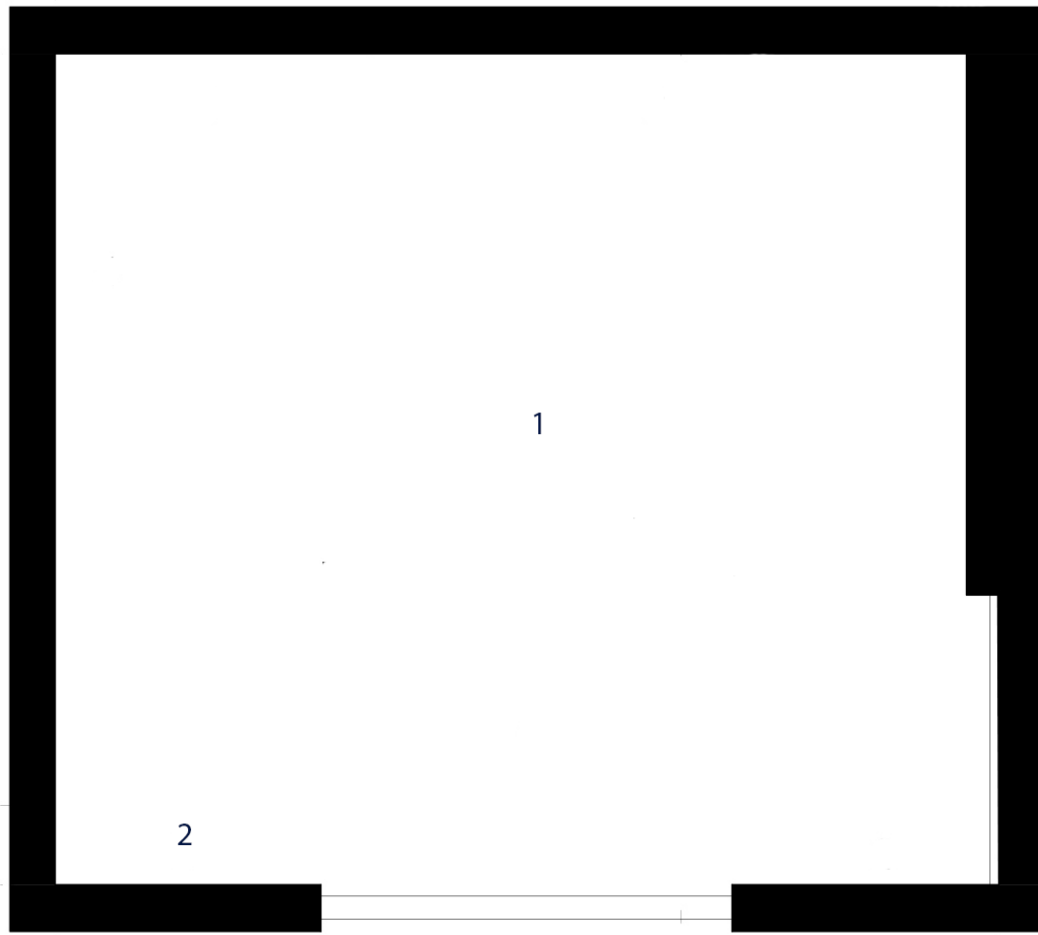
Luzie Meyer (*1990) is an artist, poet, musician, and translator based in Berlin. She uses text, image, voice and music as compositional material to create sound pieces, poems, videos and performances - forms of consciousness grounded in practices of writing. Meyer graduated from Städelschule in Frankfurt in 2016. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions, amongst others at Fri Art Fribourg (2021), Efremidis, Berlin (2020), Bel Ami, Los Angeles (2019), Sweetwater, Berlin (2019); Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg (2019); Kunstverein Braunschweig (2018); Kölnischer Kunstverein (2018); Tramway, Glasgow (2018); Le Bourgeois, London (2017); CACBM, Paris (2018) Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2017); Portikus, Frankfurt (2017).

1 Lyrics from *Song Books*, a 1970 collaboration between Cathy Berberian, John Cage, and Edward Estlin Cummings

2 Marta Abba was an Italian actress. She served as the muse for Pirandello, and had an important influence in his slow adjustment and reconsideration of the way he constructed female roles in his plays, from flat, clichéd characters into more complex personalities. Her career was marked by her outstanding talent and dedication, but also professional difficulties.

3 Cathy Berberian was an American mezzo-soprano and composer based in Italy. She collaborated with many contemporary avant-garde music composers, including Luciano Berio, Igor Stravinsky, and John Cage. She also interpreted Claudio Monteverdi's *Lamento di Arianna*. Berberian was interested in engendering a new vocality in contemporary music, that would come closer to an aesthetic of life itself, by incorporating not only the voice, but also the body and the specific personality of the singer into the musical performance.

4 Clarice Lispector, *A Breath of Life*, 1978



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Lasciatemi morire, 2021

two channels video installation, stereo sound

18'57"

scene a - "capturing the numerous ways in which the female character is doomed"

scene b - "Cathy takes off her clothes and walks into a deep lake"

scene c - "responsibility lament - a nude pietà"

scene d - "she is strongly identified with her anger"

scene e - "interviews - the exploration of character is the highest form of entertainment"

scene f - "Marta's dream of a prolonged state of uncertainty - death seeming inevitable - yet doctors decide to put her on ice hoping to cater to the slim chance for a potential cure"

film credits:

Marta - Dalia Maini

Cathy - Luzie Meyer

Camera 1 - John Matthew Heard

Camera 2 - Laura Langer

With special thanks to Kathrin Bentele, Adam Harrison, Maximilian Schmoetzer and KW Institute of Contemporary Art Berlin.

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Lasciatemi morire, 2021

mixed media

30 x 30 x 2 cm