

A group of about ten people, mostly young adults, are wading in a shallow stream in a dense forest. They are wearing blue denim jeans and are shirtless or wearing minimal clothing. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The scene is misty and atmospheric.

KORAKRIT ARUNANONDCHAI & ALEX GVOJIC SONGS FOR LIVING

14 April — 15 May 2022


Private View: Wednesday 13 April, 6-8pm

CARLOS/ISHIKAWA

Unit 4, 88 Mile End Road
London E1 4UN

www.carlosishikawa.com

+44 (0) 20 7001 1744



Fire and heat provide modes of explanation in the most varied domains, because they have been for us the occasion for unforgettable memories, for simple and decisive personal experiences. Fire is thus a privileged phenomenon which can explain anything.

If all that changes slowly may be explained by life, all that changes quickly is explained by fire. Fire is the ultra-living element. It is intimate and it is universal. It lives in our heart. It lives in the sky. It rises from the depths of the substance and offers itself with the



warmth of love. Or it can back down into the substance and hide there, latent and pent-up, like hate and vengeance. Among all phenomena, it is really the only one to which there can be so definitely attributed the opposing values of good and evil. It shines in

Paradise. It burns in Hell. It is gentleness and torture. It is cookery and it is apocalypse. It is a pleasure for the good child sitting prudently by the hearth; yet it punishes any disobedience when the child wishes to play too close to its flames. It is well-being and it is



respect. It is a tutelary and a terrible divinity, both good and bad. It can contradict itself; thus it is one of the principles of universal explanation.

— Excerpt from *The Psychoanalysis of Fire* by Gaston Bachelard

2 8 00



2 8 00

Songs for living provides excerpts from Simone Weil's *Gravity and Grace*, Édouard Glissant's *Sun of Consciousness*, and *On Prayer*, a poem by the Polish-American poet, Czesław Miłosz. From separate times and places these writers survived under oppressive regimes with the provocation of their art. What they

had in common was that they fought for a spiritual clarity amidst the forcefulness of symbolic communions. It is from this space of holding onto the uncertain, which allowed them to refuse. Instead of speaking directly to their rulers, they found ways to make songs, using the discards left over from the struggles of power.


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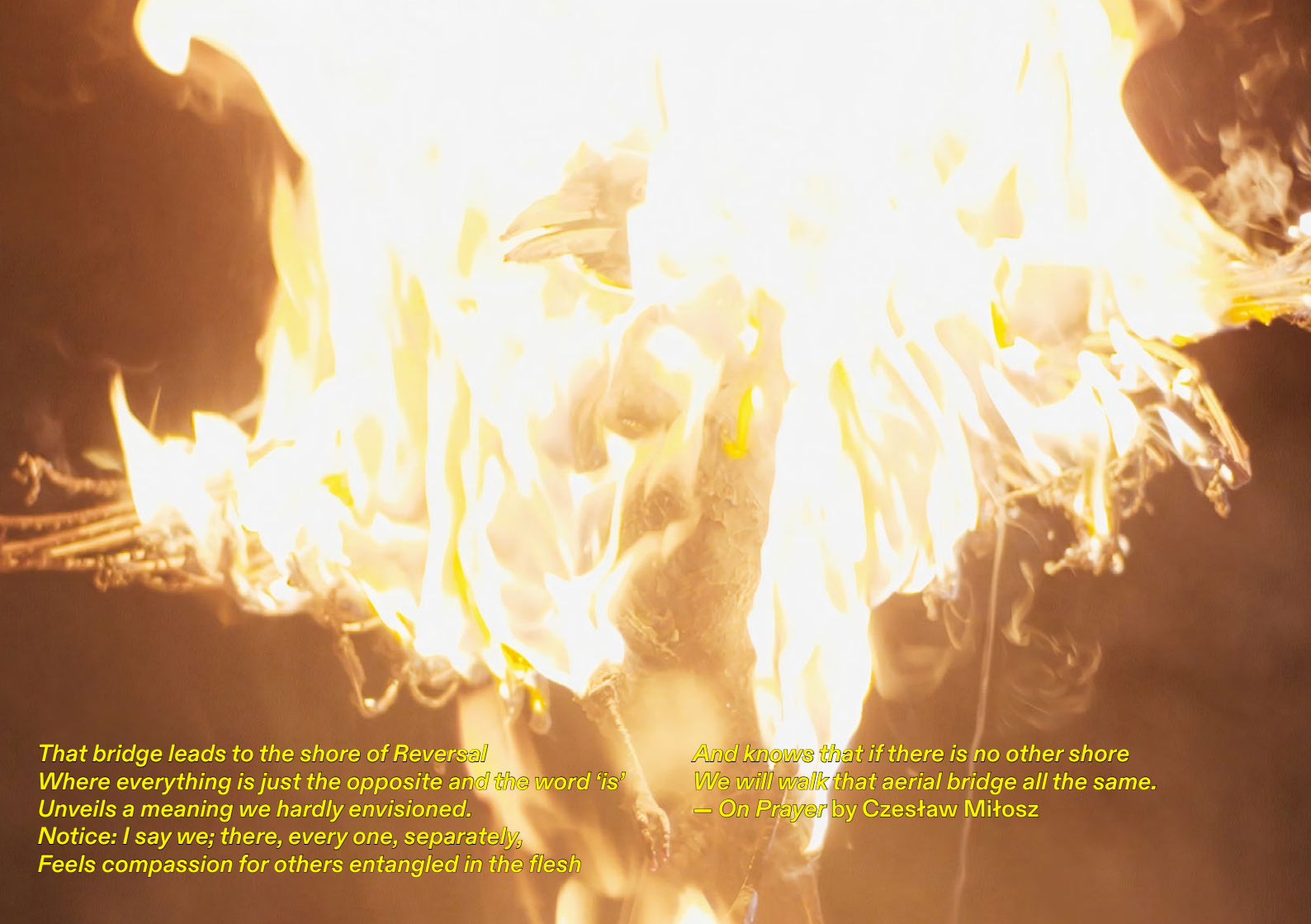
I am not saying we are powerless. I am no longer interested in power. I am asking, who is it that we pray to? Are these prayers meant to unite us with our legitimate rulers or do they only take us somewhere further away?



13:00



*You ask me how to pray to someone who is not.
All I know is that prayer constructs a velvet bridge
And walking it we are aloft, as on a springboard,
Above landscapes the color of ripe gold
Transformed by a magic stopping of the sun.*



*That bridge leads to the shore of Reversal
Where everything is just the opposite and the word 'is'
Unveils a meaning we hardly envisioned.
Notice: I say we; there, every one, separately,
Feels compassion for others entangled in the flesh*

*And knows that if there is no other shore
We will walk that aerial bridge all the same.
— On Prayer by Czesław Miłosz*



Korakrit Arunanondchai and Alex Gvojjic
Songs for living, 2021

HD single-channel video, color, sound. 20:51 min
Co-commissioned by Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst and
Kunstverein in Hamburg with support from FACT, Liverpool

PRODUCTION

KOH TAO

Camera Operator: Andres Gutierrez Fiskeseth, Korakrit
Arunanondchai, Cyrus James Khan
Talent: child-Warin, ghosts-Senay Zahir, Asia, Taw, Joy, Sha Prad
Production Manager: Turan Zahir, Pookie Supaya, Sirada
Chamthong
Location Supported by: New Heaven Diving School

NEW YORK

Bonfire

Movement Direction: Monica Mirabile
Performers: Jack Meriwether, Joy Norton, Kate Williams, Maxi
Canion, Amanda Wallace, Ellery Burton, Sadie Carnot, Margot
Roo Ells, Erika McCarthy, James Adelman, Bryant Kennedy
Tai-Chi Dancers: Albert Chan, Yee Lai Gong, Irene H Lee, Jie Ming
Dong, Sun Choi Tsang, Yun Ho Poon, Kam Lei, Zenia de la Cruz,
Richard Chin, Wai Wah Ho, Margaret Yuen, Sue Seto
Unicycle Delivery Riders: Melanie Flores, Sofya Yuditskaya,
Timothy Villaluz, Veronica H Generoso

Crew/Post

Producer & Camera B: Rory Mulhere
Producer & Art Department: Cherrisse Gray
Lighting: Michael Potvin
Location Manager: Todd Faulkner

Production: Zanze Addington-White
Production Assistant & Art Department: Alden Louke, Alison
Peery, Emma McMillian, Meghan Smith
Production Assistant: Violet Flux, Elias Riviera
Location Manager: Arba Hall, Dylan Golden
Color & Post Production: Ben Federman

Sound

Storyteller: Zsela
Composition and Mixing: Aaron David Ross
Score: Aaron David Ross
Music: "Coral like bones" originally composed by Mikey Hart
and Zsela
Drums: Brian Chippendale
Guitar: Mythless
Writing: Diane Severin Nguyen, Cherrisse Elizaga Gray

2 2:00

