



Press Release

GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen

Crossing an empty beach to look at the ocean

Eglė Budvytytė (with Marija Olšauskaitė & Ona Julija Lukas Steponaitytė), Catalina González González, Ida Lennartsson, Atsushi Mannami, Martha Rosler, RA Walden
04.06.–28.08.2022

Opening: Friday, June 3, 2022, 7 pm

The group exhibition *Crossing an empty beach to look at the ocean* is dedicated to a politics of friendship that sees itself as a counter-model to a violent and ambivalent present. Friendship here does not mean – in the narrow sense – being together with friends, but (following Céline Condorelli and others) living with and acknowledging differences. Friendships in this sense can be maintained with living as well as deceased persons, but also with objects, texts, thoughts, contexts and environments - for example. In friendly interaction with them, changes of perspective, rethinking and re-acting become possible. In this sense, the exhibition gathers works by artists who propose or develop other forms of movement and a different language. They negotiate time periods of and approaches to thinking, relationships to material as well as to territories. All these aspects are linked to conflicts, power relations and contradictions, but also to possibilities.

The video work *Songs from the compost* by Eglė Budvytytė (*1981 in Lithuania, lives in Amsterdam) is a hypnotic exploration of the darker aspects of life: interdependencies, devotion, death and decay. But it also focuses on how human and non-human interdependencies and coexistences can be concretely expressed in patterns of movement and how forms of locomotion can be coded differently.

RA Walden (lives in Berlin) developed *šáy ithřa*, a new language to replace the many performance expectations, standardizations, martial and racist metaphors that are unconsciously continuously repeated in our use of language with an interpersonal communication that underlies a different understanding of society. In the exhibition, a neon work flickers gently but persistently, reminding us of the finitude and commonality of all life. Its silent glow manifests an oral question-and-answer tradition, a relationship between two speakers.

Atsushi Mannami (*1988 in Japan, lives in Bremen) also deals with transience. Built, sometimes senseless structures, fragile or disassembled supports form temporary, anonymous landscapes, which Mannami transfers into ceramic paintings in order to deal once again with their temporary and fragile beauty. Time and image deconstruct themselves almost casually in these small-format objects, without abandoning themselves.

Ida Lennartsson (*1982 in Sweden, lives in Berlin), on the other hand, understands sculpture as an extended narrative technique. She experiments with material and form in order to open them up as a physical and tactile form of expression of emotions beyond their usual contexts in the relationship between viewer and object. In the process, connections emerge between symbolic meanings, social values, and individual and societal readings that often address repressed sensations, rejection, and the treatment of the other.

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Catalina González González (*1990 in Colombia, lives in Hamburg) searches in diary-like films for ways to tackle the conflict-ridden relationships between European and Latin American localizations. In her very own narrative form, she addresses violence without reproducing it. *For You After the Summer* depicts on the one hand "Latin America" in the miniature wonderland Hamburg and on the other hand everyday scenes of a Latin American circle of friends in Germany. In the encounter of these two quiet narrative forms, more and more contradictions arise between the representation in small format and the reality negated in this representation.

In the 1970s, Martha Rosler (*1943 in New York, lives in New York) wrote three so called food novels from the perspective of three different women and published them piece by piece, every five to seven days on postcards. The three stories revolve around the social meaning of food and (female) labor, working conditions, class issues, and oppression. The interstice of reading and thinking while awaiting the sequel on the next postcard is part of Rosler's postcard novels. Reading takes place slowly, but also almost involuntarily and intuitively, as soon as the next card lands in the mailbox. *Service. A trilogy on colonization* thus becomes an intimate dialogue with the respective stories and a reflection on one's own position.

Instead of establishing a politics of friendship as a grand subject, the artists and works present in the exhibition each take up individual aspects and their ambivalences: In which old structures entrenched words do I speak, for example, when talking about changes to these very structures? Where do thinking and acting fall apart? How do I deal with nature, whilst not really wanting to give up my upright horizon perspective in favor of other fellow creatures?

The assembled works are characterized by a principle of proximity. This is also evident in an aesthetic connection between the underlying theoretical and conceptual considerations and how these are sensually-poetically put into work and made accessible. Friendship, it is said, is to be with oneself in the other. The goal of a politics of friendship is not to dissolve the self, but to permanently reconfigure it, to be open and friendly to other without leveling it or making an 'other' out of it. As such, this concept, or rather this form of friendship, also concerns a reflection on the actions and modes of representation and aesthetics with which we relate to and shape the world – and can also change it.

Events

Tuesday, June 14, 6 pm: Halbe Halbe – Floating in, Swerving out, Doing Art & Theory
Lecture Performances by the Candidates of the Binational Artistic-PhD Program at HfK Bremen

Saturday, June 18, 6 pm – midnight: Long Night of Bremen Museums
Short guided tours, readings, Bar do Amanhã and charms by KOSKI* - feminist art and culture kiosk

Thursday, July 7, 7 pm: Guided tour

Sunday, August 28, 3 pm: Guided tour

Press images



RA Walden
feladyifá
2022
Clear glass, xenon gas
Display construction with risoprints on the xây
ith'ran word / tradition feladyifá
85 x 47 cm
Courtesy the artist
Photo: Franziska von den Driesch



Ida Lennartsson
WHITE U | witness (01011)
2022
Metal tubes, loudspeakers, sound piece, 10
min. (in collaboration with Max Boss)
Dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist
Photo: Franziska von den Driesch



Ida Lennartsson
WHITE U | an udder kiss (01012 (Detail))
2022
Milk, glass, stainless steel, silicone, euro pallet,
pump, rotary motor
165 x 120 x 90 cm
Courtesy the artist
Photo: Franziska von den Driesch



Eglė Budvytė
*Songs from the compost: Mutating bodies,
Imploding stars*
2020
4K Video, 29 min.
In collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and
Ona Julija Lukas Steponaitytė
Courtesy the artists
Photo: Franziska von den Driesch



Catalina González González
For You After the Summer
2020/2021
HD Video, 18:07 min.
Courtesy the artist
Film still

For these and/or other images in high-resolution, please contact us.
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GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Teerhof 21, 28199 Bremen
More informationen: www.gak-bremen.de
Opening hours: Di-So 11-18 Uhr
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