



Neuer Kunstverein Wien

THE DEVIL TO PAY IN THE BACKLANDS

Curated by Ursula Mayer and Bernardo José de Souza

Opening | 10.09.2022 14:00 -18:00

Exhibition | 10.09.– 12.11.2022

Location | Neuer Kunstverein Wien, Rennweg 110-116, 1030 Vienna

Pablo Accinelli | Brishty Alam | Skip Arnold | Anna-Sophie Berger | Andreas Duscha | Anna Franceschini | Cristiano Lenhardt | Ursula Mayer | Elena Narbutaite | Matheus Rocha Pitta | Sara Ramo | Klaus Spiess & Lucie Strecker | Camila Sposati | Marina Sula

This exhibition navigates different narratives and archaeologies in an attempt to observe, learn and share a common ground with objects, creatures, images and technologies that although might appear uncanny at first, are strangely familiar to the senses of those eager to excavate the ulterior layers of reality in order to attribute meaning to unforeseen social-political contexts and cultural manifestations. According to geographer Milton Santos, history unfolds in the wake of an 'unequal accumulation of time', in the overlapping of artificial and organic matter, symbolic and material culture – and therefore space derives from both the past and present, allowing for latent futures to acquire shape.

As the result of an amorphous present, the symbolic and material elements in this show may take the shape of things yet to come. The brutal transformation of nature, the resignification of language and previously acquired knowledge sets the current, turbulent political sphere into a maelstrom of deconstruction and instability. The landscape, the body and their topographies become the arena for a semantic intercourse that explores the limits of plasticity in current times. On the verge of a virtual collapse of meaning experimented in our times, The devil to pay in the backlands enquires about the future sideways, perhaps enabling us, as Catherine Malabou expresses, 'to see (what is) coming'.