

Sophie Collins  
"The Forest Fire"  
July 21st, 2018, 19h

"Sometimes there is no intent in what we say; we simply feel a compulsion to say it. Only after we say the thing are we forced to reckon with it."

The Forest Fire is a fragmentary narrative with accompanying visuals based on a brief encounter with Piero di Cosimo's painting of the same name.

Sophie Collins grew up in Bergen, North Holland, and now lives in Edinburgh. *small white monkeys*, a text on self-expression, self-help and shame, was published by Book Works in 2017 as part of a commissioned residency at Glasgow Women's Library. Her first poetry collection, *Who Is Mary Sue?*, was published by Faber & Faber in February 2018. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Durham University.

### Credits

Image: Sophie Collins\_The Forest Fire\_2018  
Sophie Collins  
The Forest Fire, 2018

Publication: SophieCollins\_preview\_BW.pdf  
Sophie Collins  
The Forest Fire, 2018  
A3 two colors riso print  
Edition of 100

Video: Sophie Collins, The Forest Fire, 2018.mp4  
Sophie Collins  
The Forest Fire, 2018  
San Seriffe, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Images courtesy of HTSU, Amsterdam

### About

HTSU (formerly How To Show Up?) is an arts organization founded in Amsterdam by Gianmaria Andreetta, Annie Goodner, Elizabeth Graham and Elisabeth Klement. Since 2016, HTSU has commissioned new work interested in writing, forms of speech and collaboration. New artist works, the majority of which premiered in the red-light district of Amsterdam, addressed the breakdown and transformation of the often solitary act of writing into a collaborative process, one in which artists and organisers worked collaboratively in the creation, editing, and production of the commission.

"Showing up" from the start has meant exploring questions of belonging by bringing together text and performance as an unfinished process, one shared with audiences through an expanded definition of publication as a trace and a social encounter. Starting with our first commissioned work, HTSU publishes a series of printed editions, which help to extend the voices and expressions developed in the work and think about the after-life of the live event. These editions of 100 feature excerpts, transcripts, drawings, scores, posters, and create an arc that connects the commissioned artists' creative process and practice. These editions also function as a document of the event.