

Aargauer Kunsthaus

Aargauerplatz
5001 Aarau

kunsthhaus@ag.ch
aargauerkunsthhaus.ch
+41 62 835 23 30



Camille Kaiser
small gestures, grand gestures
Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize 2022
1.4. – 29.5.2023

Media release
Aarau, March 2023

The 2022 Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize was awarded to the Geneva-based artist Camille Kaiser (*1992). The art prize includes a solo exhibition with publication at the Aargauer Kunsthaus. For this show, the artist examines events at the time of Algeria's independence. She approaches them from the perspective of "grand gestures" and "small gestures" in order to question decolonisation and its missing images.

In the context of the current debate on the restitution of cultural artefacts taken by colonial powers, Camille Kaiser delves into another history of decolonisation—the transfer of numerous public monuments from Algeria to France shortly after the War of Independence. After 1962, bronze statues of Joan of Arc and the Duke of Orléans, weighing several tonnes, sailed across the Mediterranean in the direction of France. At the same time, Camille Kaiser's grandfather worked in Algeria and wrote to her grandmother regarding the difficulties with shipping personal property from Algiers to Marseille.

Images from a French military archive and the correspondence between Camille Kaiser's Algerian-Swiss grandparents form the basis of her video installations, texts, as well as print works, in which the artist explores the confrontation and significance of both monumental and every-day objects. They tell a story of colonial entanglements from a personal perspective. Ultimately, the stories intertwine to make room for fiction.

Camille Kaiser (1992, CH - FR) is an artist based in Geneva. Her research and work are concerned with state/institutional archives and intimate/family archives related to the colonial history of Switzerland, France and Algeria. Her installations incorporate film and textual material that she fictionalises as part of an artistic and political strategy to redirect our attention.

Solo exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus

The special prize for Camille Kaiser consists of a solo exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus from 1 April to 29 May 2023. A monography will be published on the occasion of the exhibition by Verlag für moderne Kunst in Vienna, with contributions from Dr. Céline Eidenbenz, curator of the exhibition, as well as Lydia Amarouche and Olivia Alexandra Fahmy.

Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize

The Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize is open to Swiss or Switzerland-based artists under 30 years of age. The Prize is awarded in close cooperation with the Swiss Federal Office of Culture and the Ernst Göhner Foundation. In addition to a maximum of seven prizes of CHF 15 000 each, as a special award, a solo exhibition is organized at a Swiss institution for one artist, accompanied by a publication. This solo exhibition takes place in the year following the award of the prize. It was first held in 2022 at the Kunsthaus Fri Art in Fribourg and in 2023 it will take place at the Aargauer Kunsthaus.

Exhibition opening

Friday 31.3. 6 pm onwards

Artist talk

Sunday 2.4. 2 pm

Camille Kaiser and Dr. Céline Eidenbenz
(in French and English)

On the tracks of Kolonialaarau

Saturday 13.5. 4.30 pm

City tour with Hans Fässler, historian and decolonial activist
(in German)

Further information

Dr. Céline Eidenbenz, Curator

T +41 62 835 57 09, E-Mail: celine.eidenbenz@ag.ch

Christina Omlin, Communications / Media

T +41 62 835 44 79, E-Mail: christina.omlin@ag.ch