
kunstverein göttingen

Press release
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Insides Out - Daiga Grantina, Yein Lee and Tenant of Culture

19 August - 01 October 2023
Opening: 18 August, 6-8 pm

Dear press partners, editors and colleagues,

Kunstverein Göttingen is pleased to present the group exhibition *Insides Out* with Daiga Grantina, Yein Lee and Tenant of Culture. We look forward to your interest in the exhibition and warmly invite you to the exhibition opening on Friday 18 August 2023, 6-8 pm.



We think, feel and understand with our whole being, not just our heads. Despite the separation of mind and body that still prevails in the West, the artistic practices in *Insides Out* render feelings and perception material as one with the body. The exhibition demonstrates a changing Western acknowledgment of the body as more than just a receptor for feelings or a receiver of transmissions from the mind. Physical intelligence is grasped through a materially embodied experience: feeling and knowledge are not only reflected through a physical form but exist as such. Daiga Grantina, Yein Lee and Tenant of Culture bridge the now narrowing but still prevalent gap between mind and body through traditionally art-adjacent materials and hand-craft techniques. The materiality of their chosen mediums inherently addresses tangible feelings and their physical practices are a direct material experience of perception, merely by way of doing as an act.

Notions of self and society are subject to socio-cultural and historical influence. Daiga Grantina, Yein Lee and Tenant of Culture acknowledge how our experience of the world, with all its implications, is a

complex exchange of body and mind with the world. It is their artistic practices that aid them in coming to terms with this experience. They develop concepts that unite our physical forms and modes of perception by making material things with their own bodies, adopting context-laden practices and techniques to do so. The shell of the body, i.e. the material spirit, is porous and permeable, it both expands outwards into the world and dissolves within it, in inseparable, abstract, associative and poetic constellations of the interior and exterior.

The exhibition title *Insides Out* not only describes the symbiosis of the intellectual with the corporeal - the material mind - but also refers to the transfer of this physical, experiential complex beyond the human body. The body becomes boundary-less and thus our ability to perceive the world multiplies and disperses within it.

Daiga Grantina's material constellations bulge and dilate. Their gossamer-thin surfaces are rendered transparent and permeable, about to split open under the pressure of fecund corporeal expansion. Grantina chooses to work with both natural and synthetic materials, testing and stretching the capacities of their material properties, especially in direct relation to one another. She upends materials from their conventional use, inviting open-ended associations beyond form and representation. It is in this open space Grantina generously creates room for viewers' nuanced intimacy with her works. She physically and conceptually affords materials layers of haptic and cerebral understanding, effortlessly transitioning from micro to macro and back, just as the bodymind does constantly in the world. Her body and mind pairings are a play of volume and form, shaping a spontaneous and elastic notion of their relationship to each other, where the boundaries of the body are alluringly obscure and permeable. In beautiful poetic couplets, the internal is indistinct from the external and the material from the immaterial.

Yein Lee peels away the skin of her anthropomorphic sculptures to reveal a body that is fused with both the natural and constructed world. The outer lines of the body appear only cliché-like as an arbitrary frame to reveal how the human cosmos is permeated and defined by technology, organisms and context. There is no longer a separation between the body and the natural and built worlds, as the body is abstracted out into the world and the world back into the body. Lee's sculptures begin with an emotional experience for the artist that necessitates a physical form in order to develop and process it. Just as this feeling becomes material, the artist's sculptural process of making with her own body is her own physical outlet. In a painterly gesture, found objects made of steel, epoxy and acrylic resin, latex, electrical cables and used automobile parts, cast body parts, and natural materials like leaves and twigs, come together symbiotically to open up a body whose experience of the world is not separate from its existence in that world.

Tenant of Culture's garments of skin are unpicked and restitched in abstractions of the body broken down into 2D, standardised clothing patterns. Drawing on a background in fashion, the artist's capitalist-commercial experience of the body's ultimate disconnect from the individual, despite its marketing as such, is visible in her work. The ignorantly uniform body politic, dressed in mass-produced clothing, is removed, flattened and stitched together to form curtains and screens. But these curtains possess the potential to again take on their own form at will. In a subversion of the concealing textile known from interior spaces, Tenant of Culture's screens are waterproof and can be drawn together with toggles that completely alter their ostensibly flat form. Through acts of physical separation by unpicking stitches, Tenant of Culture lays bare how violent and dehumanising the Western separation of body and mind can be. The physical body is absent in her work as prevalence is given over to conceptions of a multipliable, malleable bodymind in contemporary society. However, Tenant of Culture's restitching doesn't completely avoid the body, since clothing is based upon it, yet the body is only present here through its absence.

The exhibition is curated by Sarah Crowe and Alke Heykes.

Artist Biographies

Daiga Grantina (*1985 in Saldus, Latvia) lives and works in Paris. From 2005-2012 she studied at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg and from 2009-2010 at the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna. Her international institutional solo exhibitions include *Lauka Telpa* at the Art Museum Riga Bourse in Riga, Latvia (2022), *What Eats Around Itself* at the New Museum in New York (2020), *Saules Suns* at the Latvian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale in Italy (2019), *Toll* at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2018) and *Pillars Sliding off Coat-ee* at the Kunstverein in Hamburg (2017). This year Grantina was nominated for the Purvītis Prize 2023 and will have a solo exhibition at Kunstmuseum Bern in 2025.

Yein Lee (*1988 in South Korea) lives and works in Vienna. She graduated with a BFA from Hong-Ik University in Seoul, South Korea in 2013 and continued her education in painting and sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna until 2022. Lee's past solo exhibitions include *Breathing Timemarker* at school in Vienna (2023), *Devouring Chaos* at Loggia in Munich (2022) and *Portal* at Final Hot Desert in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (2021). She has participated in the group exhibitions *On the edge of all this sprawl of night and cities* at Super Dakota in Brussels (2023), *Klammern aus denen Blätter Sprießen* at Scherben in Berlin (2022), *Embodied Structures* at CIVA Festival, Belvedere 21 in Vienna (2022) and *Stormy Weather* at Centre culturel suisse in Paris (2021), among others.

Tenant of Culture is the name of the practice of Hendrickje Schimmel (1990* Arnhem, NL), who lives and works in London. She completed a BA in Fashion Design at ArtEZ School of the Arts, Arnhem, NL followed by an MA in Textiles at the Royal College of Art, London, UK. Tenant of Culture's recent solo presentations include *In Situ: Tenant of Culture* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp (2023), *Soft Acid* at Camden Art Centre in London (2022), *et al*, Kunstverein Dresden (2021) and *Tenant of Culture* at Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, NL (2020).

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Daiga Grantina

vase, 2020

fabric, plastic, wood, ink, screws

145 x 100 x 36 cm (57 1/8 x 39 3/8 x 14 1/8 inches)

© Daiga Grantina

Courtesy of the artist and Emalin, London.

Photo Credit: Stephen James



Tenant of Culture

Dry Fit (Series), 2023

Recycled outerwear and sportswear, elastic, toggles, thread, fabric, steel, aluminum
300 x 220 cm

Courtesy the artist and Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam & Soft Opening, London.
Photo Gunnar Meier.



Yein Lee

the meaning of speaking up, 2023

Steel, plaster of Paris, wooden branches, repurposed broken printer,
epoxy putty, electrical wires, 3d print
25 x 25 x 145 cm

Courtesy of the artist.

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