

*Claude Eigan & Maren Karlson (curated by Sarah Johanna Theurer)*

## **Hear The Lizards Listening**

14 02 – 30 03 2019

The lizard basking in the sun is a well-known protagonist of philosophical thinking. What's the relationship between the motionless lizard and the stone, the motionless stone on the ground and the human approaching it's own reflection in the reptile's eye?

The animal's suspended state of awareness, mind and body absorbed into the environment, is something humans can rarely achieve – in unconscious delirium, when they are sick with emotions or immersed in psychoactive darkness. We as humans are prisoners of our own bodies and experiences.

*Which is better off, a lizard basking in the sun or a philosopher?*

Some of the cold-blooded reptilians are even said to shape-shift into human form. Playing the role of the alien predator, the reptoids originated from new age philosophy populate our fantasy and occasionally our politics. Lizards have had their claws in humankind since ancient time.

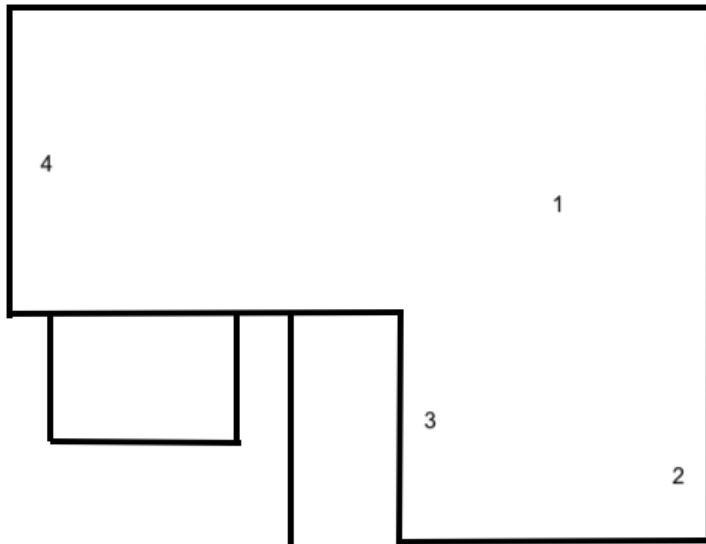
*Hear the Lizards Listening* is a contrapuntal proposal to the realm of the rational human conscious. It suggests listening for silence, searching for the alien within, whether mutated or genetically engineered allowing the lizard to return the gaze.

The poem *She Rose* by Maren Karlson sets the tone for this encounter. The two artists collaboratively created a group of humanoid sculptures, examining the visitor from outside the window. Claude Eigan's sculpture *Inner Saboteur* is an investigation of the gut, technically the human's roots, it's powerhouse and the dark birthplace of anxiety. In Maren Karlson's paintings fluid bodies rove through an irrational realm, confidently growing from a pitch black vacuum ground. They could be our proxies when the sun goes down on Wake Island.

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STUDIO BOTANIC



1. **Claude Eigan: Inner Saboteur, 2019**  
wood, styrofoam, resin, plaster, spray paint,  
lacquer, 170 x 80 x 45 cm
2. **Maren Karlson: Engel der Nacht, 2019**  
oil on wood panel, 18 x 24 cm
3. **Maren Karlson: Suddenly the path seems  
easier, and wider, and you realize you're at  
the center and there's nothing there but  
yourself, 2019**  
oil on wood panel, 24 x 18 cm
4. **Maren Karlson: Let's see if I can be born  
again, 2018**  
pencil on canvas, 49 x 37,5 cm
5. **Claude Eigan, Maren Karlson: Owls, 2019**  
clay, acrylic paint, varnish, wire, steel, dimensions  
variable

**She Rose**

At the top of the mountain  
She looks at me from behind her rock  
A star glowing brightly in dewy shade  
Staring with one eye spiraling through the fast mist  
One spiraling eye to burn right through my shell

She is the ocean, the fire, the rock and the dark  
Spirit bouncing back and forth between winding hearts

At the top of the mountain  
She lets me have one sip from the shiny pond  
Power move me, drink me and you will live eternally  
Water cannot be destroyed, it just changes form  
Moss Angel gives me a silky kiss  
and lays me down on her soft bed

Naked sea butterfly, daughter of the moon driven sea  
she rose to shine her light on me