

# **Stories**

## **Rosa Aiello**

## **Benedikt Bock**

## **Mia Sanchez**

**4.11. – 9.12.2023**

The exhibition *Stories* is part of an ongoing series that began with the group show *Time, please*<sup>1</sup> from May to July this year. The cycle consists of four thematic concepts: 1) sourcing, mining, import, input; 2) machine, motor, production, metabolism; 3) stock, storage, provision, rejects, product, output; 4) pause, regeneration, rest, sleep, standstill, repair, maintenance. Some of the categories overlap and coexist. The list describes a vital system that could be a complex organism set up as a self-perpetuating system: for example, a hospital or a bunker, a body, a biotope, a company, a state, a relationship or a planet, a system of goods and finance, or a bank. They are no fixed realities, but time-immanent systems. To function autonomously, they are provided with vital resources. Such predefined processes follow a timeline.

In her audiovisual work *Yours Faithfully*, **Rosa Aiello** shows video recordings of scenes at an intersection. From her apartment in Berlin-Reinickendorf and with her smartphone camera, she filmed passers-by crossing the street. To the original sound of the motor traffic – which is visually in the background but acoustically dominant – Aiello, in the tradition of a «Foley artist»<sup>2</sup>, dubbed the footsteps of the pedestrians. On the floor of her studio, she imitated their movements with her own body; so that, with this film-historical «trick», the artist brings the visible movement of the passers-by into acoustic focus. It creates complex rhythmic overlays that are defined by the movement of the people filmed. This gives the everyday bodies special attention and thus creates a somewhat unnatural, sometimes strange, balance between sheer human and mechanized coexistence in public space: flows of rhythm and traffic.

In the video *Regina of Crossroads*, **Mia Sanchez** tells the story of a bus driver for Berlin's public transport company. The uniformed protagonist describes the routine tasks of her daily work: from the beginning early in the morning, through the breaks, to the end of her shift. She speaks of the bus as an entity that she controls and operates – strictly according to a given schedule and route. If she were a dancer, it would be called a choreography. *Désirée* describes a symbiotic construct in which the vehicle is guided by her and she is moved by it. The bus and its head belong to the same body. It remains uncertain who is actually «the queen» (Regina) when the portrayed «Berufskraftfahrerin»<sup>3</sup> dressed in uniform, and with a below-average salary<sup>4</sup>, transports the passengers on their way to their daily work through a tight corset of departure and arrival times, route plans and traffic regulations.

The sculptures *What People Want is Not What People Need* are suggestive of pedestals with classic busts and show various social characters that appear to be in a special relationship to one another. No hierarchies are directly recognizable in this group of people, who are minimally distinguished by different types of wigs and glasses. From the head down, the body is occupied by strange technical prostheses. A closer look at the abstract and minimalist «heads»: it is obvious that the noses are the only facial features that have been worked out in detail. They are what give the cylindrical plaster objects their anthropomorphic features. The video *Die Zukunft gehört dem Auto* combines spoken fragments from **Benedikt Bock's** autofictional novel project *Robert Zweifel* with video recordings from his cell phone archive. The work revolves around the feeling of being lost in a present caught between mechanization, progress and soldiers.

**Daniel Kurth & Karin Borer**

<sup>1</sup> with Steve Bishop, Lucia Elena Pruša, Michael Ray-Von, Hannah Weinberger, Angharad Williams, and Jiajia Zhang, curated by Karin Borer & Daniel Kurth at Kunst Raum Riehen

<sup>2</sup> A foley artist (dt. «Geräuschemacher», franz.«bruiteur», also «foot-step artist») is a person who re-creates sounds for film, video, and other media in post-production to enhance audio quality.

<sup>3</sup> is the job title in Germany for qualified drivers of motor vehicles for the transportation of goods or passengers.

<sup>4</sup> Berlin employees earn an average salary of 4,060 euros brutto per month in 2023 - bus drivers at BVG receive 2,773 euros brutto per month. The bus driver's license costs around 5,000 euros.