



PRESS RELEASE

02.12.2023 – 25.02.2024

ANNA EHRENSTEIN

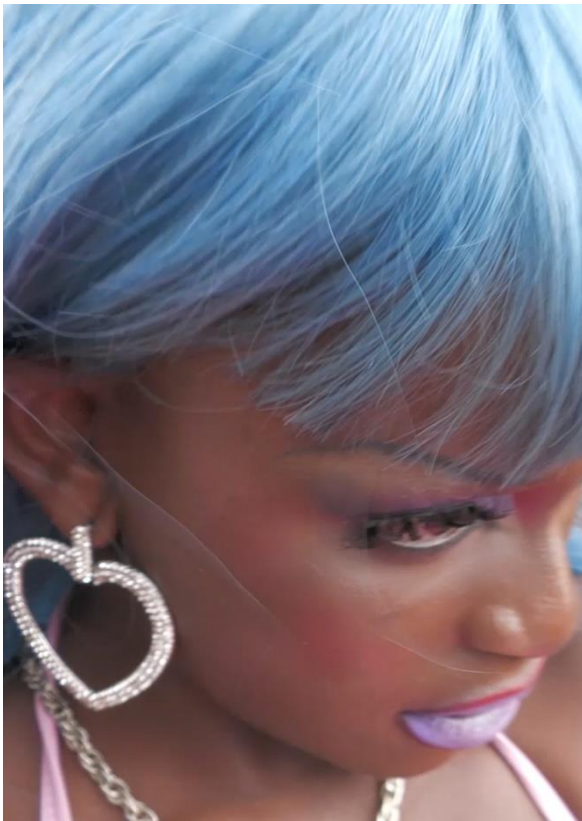
Imagined Inevitabilities

with Osiriz33, V.f.V. Braunschweig,
Mahube Diseko and Brian Montshiwa

OPENING

Friday, Dezember 01, 2023, 7 pm

With DJ Set by Bartonella Bugatti



Anna Ehrenstein, Mahube Diseko and
Brian Montshiwa, *CIS Best friend*, 2023
Courtesy the artists, KOW Berlin and Office Impart



For her solo exhibition *Imagined Inevitabilities* with Osiriz33, V.f.V. Braunschweig, Mahube Diseko and Brian Montshiwa at Kunstverein Braunschweig, ANNA EHRENSTEIN is working with international and local collaborators to develop innovative artworks that question the conditions of our coexistence in the 21st century with impact, wit and urgency. The artist brings together a multitude of voices and protagonists who decisively expand the circle of creative artists.

The first part of the exhibition is dedicated to Ehrenstein's collaboration with Leonidas Emre Pakkan aka Osiriz33, rapper, artist, main actor and co-author of the series "Hype", as well as young athletes from the weight training club V.f.V. von 1898 Braunschweig e.V. Since the summer, several workshops have taken place in the art and sports club. These experiences are being incorporated into a new video installation for an alternative national anthem.

Ehrenstein is also presenting the three-channel video work *Chommie - digital closet* (2022-2023) for the first time, which the artist created together with Brian Montshiwa and Mahube Diseko in Johannesburg (ZA). In an innovative visual language, they focus on LGBTIQ+ rights in a globalized world, in a present dominated by Netflix, social media and internet architecture.

What imagined necessities ("Imagined Inevitabilities") structure digital and physical realities? How do visibility, discrimination and commercialization relate to each other? *Imagined Inevitabilities* creates a contact zone that invites an expansive reflection on the current contradictions of diversity and integration discourse, globalization and digital capitalism.

Curator: Benedikt Johannes Seerieder



Passdeutscha, 2023 – participatory mediation project and
contact zone mit Osiriz33 and V.f.V. Braunschweig

For this project, Anna Ehrenstein worked with young athletes who practice weight training as members of the Verein für Volkssport V.f.V. v. 1898 Braunschweig e.V.. These experiences included video recordings of weight training as well as reflection processes led by Ehrenstein on marginalization, the racist background of the German integration and dominant culture discourse and the sharing of experiences of racism. The project also allows members of the two clubs to talk to each other: What actually distinguishes a sports club from an art club? What do they have in common?

Ehrenstein also worked on a song and a music video with Leonidas Emre Pakkan aka OSIRIZ33, rapper, artist, lead actor and co-author of the series "Hype". The video addresses police violence and the daily racism faced by black and especially Muslim-read people in Germany and counters the German integration discourse with energetic images and robust words of radical diversity, permanent revolt and anti-racism - instead of the national anthem: #kanax4president.



Anna Ehrenstein with Osiriz33 and V.f.V. 1898 Braunschweig e.V.,
Passdeutscha, 2023-ongoing. Courtesy the artists



Chommie – the digital closet – queer rights in South Africa, Germany and in virtual space



Anna Ehrenstein, Brian Montshiwa, Mahube Diseko, *Chommie - the digital closet* (2022-2023), Courtesy the artists, KOW Berlin and Office Impart

In 2022, Anna Ehrenstein spent an extended research stay in Johannesburg to work together with Brian Montshiwa and Mahube Diseko. They collaboratively traced the striking tension between the eagerly consumed queerness in the media and the real threat to LGBTIQ+ people. *Chommie - the digital closet* (2022-2023) quotes in parts the formal language of common reality TV formats, interspersed with South African kwaito music. In some cases, Ehrenstein also uses artificial intelligence (AI) to reflect on the power of algorithms, AI and digitality with regard to the visibility of the global queer community. A cooperation with the queer center "Onkel Emma" / VSE Braunschweig e.V. is planned for the exhibition at Kunstverein Braunschweig. This will establish an exchange of experiences through art between queer life realities in South Africa and Lower Saxony and discuss how to evaluate the dialectic between the increasing visibility of LGBTIQ+ topics in reality TV and social media in the face of discrimination and commercialization.



Courtesy the artist

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Anna Ehrenstein (*1993) is a transdisciplinary and collaborative artist who works between Berlin and Tirana. She studied photography and media art in Dortmund and Cologne and has spent numerous residencies and research stays in Valetta, Lagos, Johannesburg and Bogotá, among others. She teaches in the interdisciplinary Master's program Design & Computation at the Berlin University of the Arts and the Technical University of Berlin.

In her transdisciplinary artistic practice, Ehrenstein uses photography and video, digital technology and installation, social gatherings or sculptures to reflect on the intersections and contrasts of high and low culture and their socio-political contexts.

Ehrenstein was born in Germany to Albanian parents. While her mother received a work visa, her father left Germany after his asylum application was rejected and started a new life in Tirana. This biographical peculiarity is a starting point for Ehrenstein's artistic and socio-political interests. Her work traverses material cultures of the periphery and networked visual worlds, incorporating media technology, performance, text and installation.

She works with a variety of groups on collaborative projects and believes in the radical possibilities of collective unlearning.

Her works have been shown at Office Impart, Berlin, the Museum Centquatre Paris, the Lagos Biennale, the Landesmuseum Linz, KOW Berlin, the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, or Bazament Art Space, Tirana, among others.



Program

Public Guided Tour

Thursdays 6 pm and

Sundays 3 pm

Only during the exhibition period

Free of charge, plus admission

Thu, 11 December 2023, 6 pm

Guided tour for LGBTQI+

Registration at veranstaltungen@vsebs.de

Free of charge, plus admission

In German language

Tue, 16 January 2024, 6 pm

Members only

ANGENEHME ANLÄSSE

V.f.V. Braunschweig x Kunstverein Braunschweig

Registration at info@kunstvereinbraunschweig.de

Free of charge

In German language

Thu, 22 February 2024, 6 pm

Curators tour on Imagined Inevitabilities

with Benedikt Johannes Seerieder, curator

Free of charge, plus admission

In German language

You can find the entire program for the exhibitions on our [website](#).



Press und Public Relations

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Di – Fr 12 – 18 Uhr

Do 12 – 20 Uhr

Sa, So 11 – 18 Uhr

The exhibition *Imagined Inevitabilities mit Osiriz33, V.f.V.*

Braunschweig, Mahube Diseko und Brian Montshiwa is supported by:



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Wissenschaft und Kultur

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Braunschweig
Fachbereich Kultur und Wissenschaft

In Zusammenarbeit mit:





Anna Ehrenstein with Osiriz33 and V.f.V. 1898 Braunschweig
e.V., *Passdeutscha*, 2023-ongoing

Video:

Art Direction and Concept: Leonidas Emre Pakkan and Anna Ehrenstein

Passdeutscha Song: Osiriz33 (Leonidas Emre Pakkan)

Producer: Frio (Samuele Frijó)

Executive Director: Sanel Pelko

Head of Production: Nihal Ünsal

Production Assistant: Samuel Olatidoye

Director of Photography: Martin Schulte-Tickmann

Head Post: Sanel Pelko

Styling: Collins Folarin

SXF Make Up: Unauny Ryq

Main Character: Adnan Zaatouri

Police: Volker Wesche

Dancer: Daria Skorokhod, Rebecca Pokua Korang, Samuel Sensei

Talents: Farina Finke, Jeanne Wagne, Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese,
Mehran Nourani Karimi, Selou Sowe, Nabeel Mohamedde, Evelyne,
Denzel Russel, Leonie Claire, Naomi Bechert, Greg Onwuegbuzie, Dina
El Kaisy Friemuth, Nour Sokhon, Panos Aprahamian, Ebi Amakye

V.f.V. Braunschweig: Hung Hoang, Sophie Kappler, Illia Tsupor

Courtesy the artists



Anna Ehrenstein with Mahube Diseko and Brian
Montshiwa, *Chommie – the digital closet*, 2022-2023
Three-channel video installation

Concept und Cameos:

Brian Montshiwa, Mahube Diseko, Anna Ehrenstein

Main Character: Dumisa Dumisa

Make-up Artist: Tammi Mbambo

Styling: The Source Joburg

Security Officer: Sagundwane Secu (Jabu)

Performance: Brian Montshiwa

Courtesy the artists