

Daniela Kneip Velescu
Hyaluron

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Eurodance

It flickers colorfully behind the window, like a view onto a techno fortress. Quiet, though, and with slightly fewer people. But people are drinking here too, and I'm a little nervous. Obviously locked out, a mobile phone camera tries to squeeze through a keyhole. Despite the December cold of the touchingly exaggerated Berlin winter, I feel the blazing midday sun of Romania on the artist's neck. The haptic quality of her camera work emphasizes her urge to communicate.

Briefly, the private video recordings reveal an image of a baby Jesus, standing somewhat disheveled on a staircase and enchanting a woman. It is the church patron saint Teresa of Ávila, a rebellious Catholic mystic. Not all of her visions were so harmless. Another time, an angel thrust the love for God into her heart with a glowing arrow, so that they became one.

Dani I can tell you what was or is here.

Well, the Catholics have emigrated.

One day, Gerda Kneip, Daniela's mother, no longer had to go to the church with the red door all the time. By the time the post-reunification period came around, the *Kneip-Velescu* nuclear family had long since been bought out by West Germany as part of the *Geheimsache Kanal*—a paid emigration deal between Ceaușescu's Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany. From then on, little Daniela's main concern was not to attract attention in her new surroundings. After passing through a »home for asylum seekers« - as it was called back then - they were quickly pushed towards the »social mainstream«. Now, however, Daniela smugly bids farewell to this voyage of discovery. In any case, she still owns her parents' shoe cabinet, which they got hold of in a store for low-income families after entering the country. The fact that it now fits perfectly into our newly rented flat with its walls full of wall cabinets and wood paneling sometimes feels strange.

refurbished iPhone

In the semi-darkness, reflective screens throw back the light of the video projection.

No – photo stickers from Berlin's club scene, torn from mobile phones, stare back at us. Bag checks? Nowhere to be found! The individual sequences of her dream box flicker. Images first start to become unsteady and then tear off completely. Oh, and the altarpiece with Teresa of Ávila in the church in Satchinez was painted by her grandfather, after a Catholic classic. Eventually, everything stops and the cleaning light comes on in the teenager's room.

**DANY'S
DREAM
COLLECTION**

declare the letters, which, reminiscent of Microsoft WordArt and medieval banners, are scrimmaging on the misprints melted into the canvas. The words are taken from some of the artist's school paraphernalia of the early 1990s and take us back to the bedroom of her youth. *Sangt Hipolyt* has disguised itself very well as a church. From the self-evident assertion of the natural reproduction of humans and animals follows, quite naturally, the inquisitorial question if there is a wish to have children. Resting its head mockingly on the lower jaw of the mother lion lying on its back, its eyes slightly narrowed, the cute baby animal looks at us perhaps a little reproachfully.

Creative X / Leistung X

Anyone who has ever taken part in the blasting of a building knows how strange it feels to first see the collapse and then, noticeably delayed, to be able to hear the noise of collapse. Today we are standing in the middle of the collapsing house of cards of the artist's identity, with which she, in her role as an architect, always diligently tinkered. It has just collapsed with a loud bang of joie de vivre.

Două sute de ani

The plaster is crumbling and the artist already has a few wrinkles. In *Hyaluron*, Daniela lets real places and questions in need of clarification stumble around wildly, like a bunch of drunks on the dancefloor. In the dim light of the exhibition space, Daniela Kneip Velescu rolls out an eerily beautiful floor of conversation for you, the visitors, only to laugh it away herself in a garish and cheerful way. A frenzied prelude to her exhibition *Vampire Facelift* at the Kunstverein der Grafschaft Bentheim in Neuenhaus in March 2024.