

BEA SCHLINGELHOFF

SOCIÉTÉ DES ARTS PRICE 2023

8TH EDITION

EXHIBITION

Members and Society

CROSNIER & SAINT-OURS GALLERIES

PALAIS DE L'ATHÉNÉE

Dates Friday, March 1st – Saturday, March 30th, 2024

Opening hours Tuesday to Friday from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Bea Schlingelhoff

Bea Schlingelhoff's practice engages with feminist and critical approaches to the history of institutions. She sees the art exhibition as both the raw material of her work and the context of the area she focuses on to reveal unspoken historical facts and the repressive forces underlying a given situation.

Bea Schlingelhoff delved into the context of the Palais de l'Athénée and the Société des Arts and explored the physical aspect of the first and the history of the latter. She noticed the neoclassical aspect of the Palais and discovered the Enlightenment Age's model of the Société back in 1776, and today its action in various fields of knowledge among others the contemporary art program. The contextual approach led her to the legal organization of the Société des Arts. Initially, she proposed that during the exhibition everyone might be able to become for free Sociétaire during one year. This proposal to open widely the Société des Arts to everyone being refused by the Board, she explored the clues of verticality in the Société among others the superfluous distinction between the Sociétaires and the Members.

The Salle Saint-Ours contained a site-specific work with a hand-painted inscription on the lintels of the identical amount of the fee for both the "sociétaire" and the "member" ("Difference"). In the main room you can find the Swiss Civil Code which organizes the Société des Arts' status ("Rule"). The artist decided to reproduce the Société's Status with a proposal for an update. The alternative rules are written in 3D. In an allusion to the horizontal principle she proposes to merge the "sociétaires" and the "members" ("Proposal") (These specific words have their own equivalent in different languages: Les membres / Die Mitglieder / The Members / I Membri. Les sociétaires / Die Gesellschafter / The Associates / E Associati).

The main room of Salle Crosnier has been physically modified. "Comparison" is a series of tests for a gold painting wall which gives a temporary aspect to the elegant decor of the room. Metaphorizing the verticality of any social organization, in this case, the Société des Arts, Bea Schlingelhoff has lowered the chandeliers so that the latter seem to brush against the floor ("Extension").

Deeply inclined to the production of text-based works she is proposing a series of capping phrases. A fundamental part of the Rinzaï sect of Zen Buddhism, kōans and their associated capping verses are surprising and often perplexing riddles used as meditation tools. Some of the exhibited drawings are also reproduced in the book produced on the occasion.

Bea Schlingelhoff slightly rearticulates physically and conceptually the exhibition space. She indexes the legal structure of the institution to reveal the way it addresses social organizations and proposes an alternative structure. The capping phrases don't propose a solution but are the proof of a solution through a lifetime-term meditation. In an echo of this Zen practice, Bea Schlingelhoff refuses easy solutions and quick reduction to engage in an irreducible conversation with the context.

Julien Fronsacq

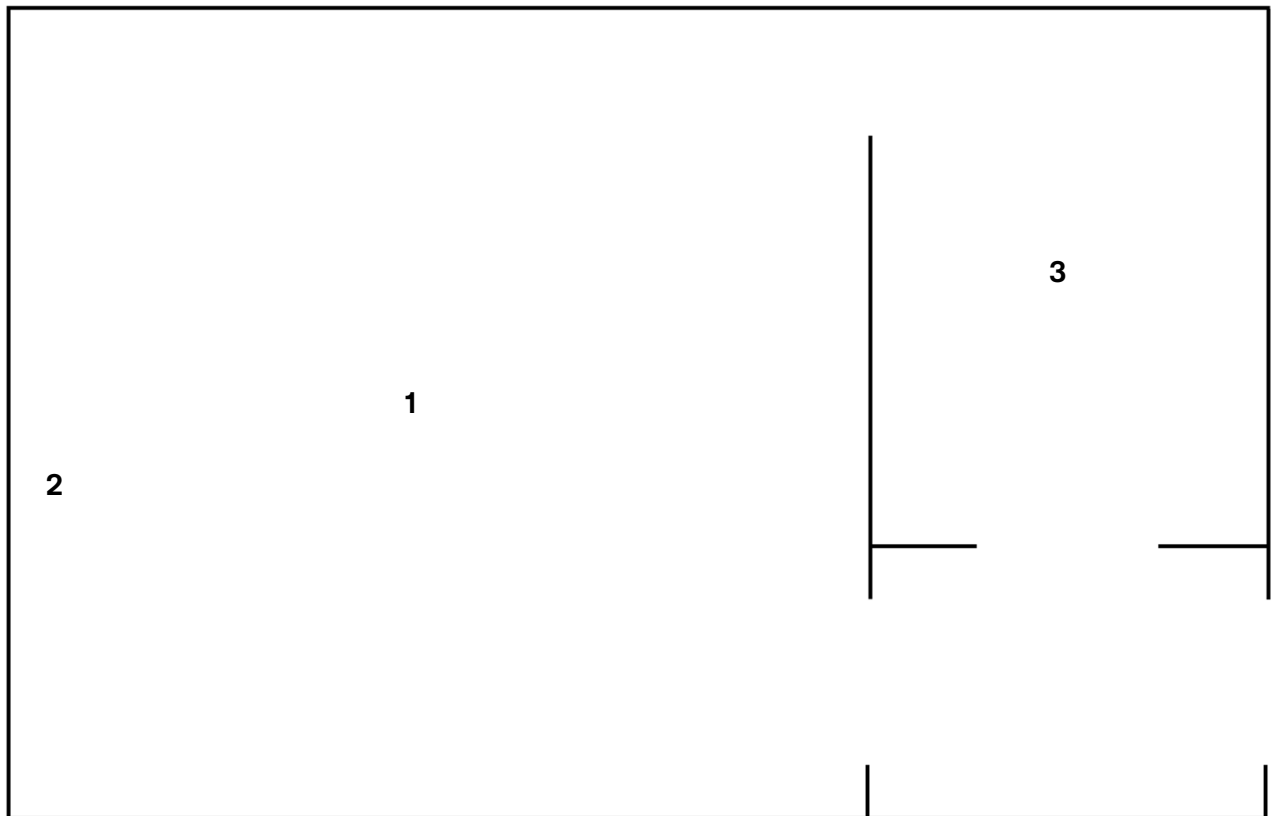
SALLE CROSNIER

- 1. Extension**
8 original chandeliers
Lowered with chains, 2024
- 2. Comparison**
Colour charat
Wall painting, 2024
- 3. The Drawing Room**
150 Books with drawings

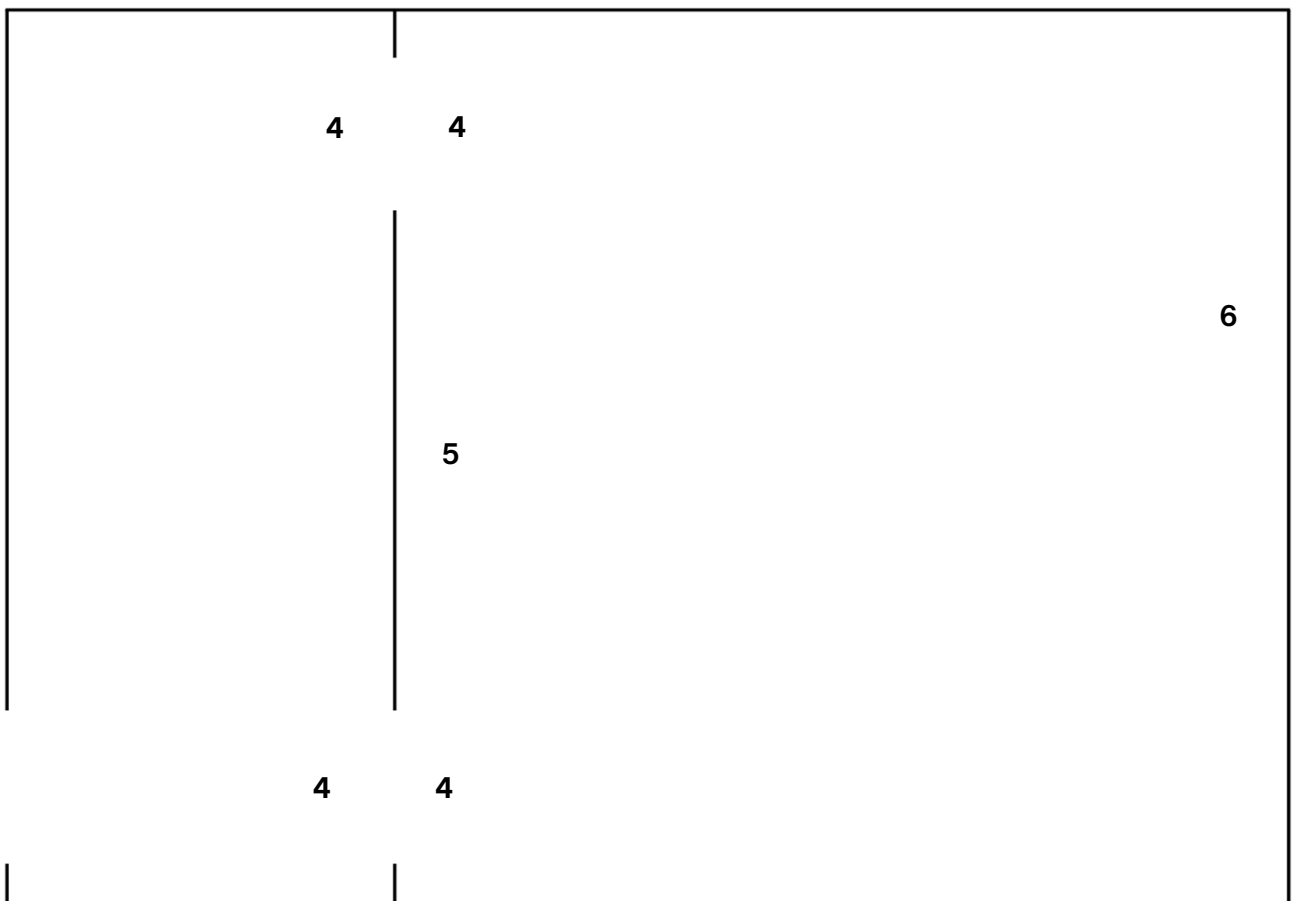
SALLE SAINT-OURS

- 4. Difference**
Hand painted letters on top of 4 doorframes
Gold paint on wood, 2024
- 5. Proposal**
6 drawings (Articles of association)
Ink on paper, framed, 2024
Gold wall painting, 2024
- 6. Rule**
Swiss Civil Code, extract, Art. 67
Vinyl letters on acrylic, 2024

SALLE CROSNIER



SALLE SAINT-OURS



5. *Proposal* (translation)

To make the statutes more understandable for the association and the public, articles 6 and 10 can be merged.

STATUTES

For the sake of readability, the terms used in these statutes to refer to individuals are used in a generic sense and therefore apply equally to women and men.

The terms used in these statutes to refer to members are "members" and "associates". Both terms can be used interchangeably. They both refer to the same legal status, namely "member".

Art. 1. Founded in 1776, the Society of Arts forms a corporately organized association, enjoying civil personality and governed by these statutes and subsidiarily by articles 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.

Art. 2. The Society is based in Geneva, at the Palais de l'Athénée.

Art. 3. Its duration is unlimited.

Art. 4. The purpose of the Society is to promote, mainly within the Palais de l'Athénée and in the canton of Geneva, the study and development of arts, thought, and economy.

Art. 5. The organs of the Society are the General Assembly of members and the Board. The Society has established three classes, namely the Class of Fine Arts, the Class of Industry and Commerce, and the Class of Agriculture, which organize themselves and carry out their activities in accordance with the Society's organizational regulations. In case of governance issues in a class, the Society's Board intervenes.

Art. 6. Members are appointed by the General Assembly of members according to the modalities provided by the Society's organizational regulations. They pay a contribution set by the General Assembly and each have one vote. *Additionally, all individuals who financially contribute each year to the activities of the society's classes are members. They pay a contribution set by the general assembly and each have one vote.* Members receive a card confirming their status for the fiscal year in which they made a financial contribution. The Board may reject any admission request and proceed with the exclusion of a member, without giving reasons.

Art. 7. Upon proposal by the Society's Board, the General Assembly of members may appoint an honorary member or even an honorary president, who has rendered exceptional services to the Society. Honorary members retain the right to vote in the General Assemblies of members.

Art. 8. Upon proposal by the Society's Board, the General Assembly of members may confer the title of benefactor on any person who has made significant donations to the Society. Benefactors have advisory voting rights in the General Assemblies of members, unless they are already members; their name is displayed on a plaque at the Athénée.

Art. 9.1 The Society is directed and administered by a Board with the broadest powers for the management of the Society's affairs. The Board consists of six members, three of whom are elected by the General Assembly of members, namely the president, vice-president, and treasurer of the Society, and three ex officio members, who are the presidents of each of the three classes. In the absence of a class president, their vice-president replaces them, with voting rights. 2 Former presidents of the Society and outgoing presidents of each of the three classes may attend Board meetings with advisory voting rights. 3 The Board meets as often as the affairs of the Society require, but at least six times a year; exceptionally, Board meetings may be held by video conference or telephone. The Board can validly deliberate only if at least four of its members are present. It makes its decisions by majority vote of the members present, with the president (or, in their

absence, the vice-president) having a casting vote in case of a tie. 4 The term of office of elected Board members is three years. The term of office of the president and vice-president is immediately renewable once. The term of office of the treasurer is renewable without limitation. 5 In case of a vacancy, the replacement is appointed by the Society's Board until the next General Assembly of members. 6 To assist it in its task, the Board may enlist unpaid collaborators. The term of office of these collaborators expires at the same time as that of the president and vice-president of the Society; it is renewable. 7 Board members serve on a voluntary basis and are not entitled to any remuneration.

Art. 10. The Board represents the Society and its classes vis-à-vis third parties; it has all powers of disposition, management, and administration on behalf and for the account of the Society, subject to the powers devolved to the General Assembly of members. To assist it in these tasks, the Board may engage a secretary-general, whose duties are determined by the Society's organizational regulations; in the absence of a secretary-general, the Board engages, supervises, and dismisses the Society's employees itself.

Art. 11. The Society is validly bound towards third parties by the joint signature of the president (or, in case of their absence, another member of the Board designated by them) and another member of the Board. If a secretary-general has been engaged, their powers of representation vis-à-vis third parties are determined by the Board.

Art. 12. The Board reports annually on its management to the General Assembly of members. The financial year begins on the first of July each year.

Art. 13. The General Assembly of members is the supreme organ of the Society. The details of its functioning are determined by the Society's organizational regulations. The Board convenes the General Assembly of members whenever it deems it necessary, but at least once in the first half of each fiscal year; furthermore, it must convene it upon the request of at least one-fifth of the members. In case of necessity, especially during pandemics, the General Assembly may be held by correspondence according to the procedure provided by the Society's organizational regulations.

Art. 14. Invitations and communications addressed to the members are made by simple letters, circulars, or email.

Art. 15. Subject to article 20, all decisions of the General Assembly of members are validly taken by a majority of the members present. However, for the election of a Board member, a member, an honorary member, or for an amendment of the statutes, the number of members present must be at least fifteen.

Art. 16. The election of a Board member, a member, an honorary member, a benefactor member, as well as any proposal for a partial or total revision of the statutes and the organizational regulations, or for the dissolution of the Society, must be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly of members and in the invitations thereto.

Art. 17. The resources of the Society consist of the income from its real and personal property, the proceeds from the cultural activities of the classes, the financial contributions of the members, the contributions of the associates, donations, and legacies. The amount of the contribution due by the members to the Society is determined by the General Assembly, while the amount of the minimum financial contribution due by the members to the Society falls within the competence of the Board. The Society freely disposes of its resources, subject to the special designation of a donation or legacy imposed by a patron or donor.

Art. 18. The members incur no personal liability for the obligations of the Society, which are solely guaranteed by its assets.

Art. 19. No discussion or propaganda on purely political or religious subjects is allowed in the General Assemblies of the Society, the meetings of its Board, or the class sessions.

Art. 20. The dissolution of the Society can only be decided by an absolute majority of the members. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Society are transferred primarily to one or more Geneva institutions of private law, pursuing a public interest purpose and benefiting from tax exemption. Otherwise, the assets of the Society may be transferred to Geneva public law institutions benefiting from tax exemption. In no case shall the assets of the Society be returned to physical founders or members, nor be used for their benefit, in whole or in part, in any way whatsoever.

In these six drafts, the original Article 7 was forgotten to be drawn. It originally states that a person who has not paid their contribution loses the privilege of being a member.

1 The translation of "sociétaire" and "membres" into German is "Mitglied" and is thus used interchangeably, for example in the Swiss Civil Code, Article 67. In the German translation, the word "Mitglied" is used for both French terms. Art. 67.1 All members have equal voting rights in the general assembly. 2 Decisions are made by majority vote of the members present.

The artist would like to thank everyone supporting the installation of the exhibition and the opening:

Mohamed Almusibli, Devrim Bayar, Jean-Marc Brachard, Seraphin Brandenberger, Jean-Yves Bourquin, Idalina Cerqueira, Luís Da Silva Afonso, Jonathan Drevet, Jess Francescato, Julien Fronsacq, Monica Gallina, David Gonnet, Yasemin Imre, Maarten van de Laar, Etienne Lachat, Nelson López, Emmanuel Magnin, Philippe Richard, Dr. Ralf Tscherwinka, Pascal Zanni

Bea Schlingelhoff

Born in 1971 in Waiblingen, Germany, Bea Schlingelhoff lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. She is a graduate of CalArts (Los Angeles) and studied in Bremen and at the Whitney Program in New York. In the past 20 years, Bea Schlingelhoff has had many solo exhibitions of her work, among others at Essex the Street Gallery (New York) in 2016 and at Cherish Gallery (Geneva) in 2020. More recently, her ambitious exhibition at the Kunstverein Munich, "No River to Cross" (2021), received widespread critical acclaim.

The Prix de la Société des Arts de Genève

The Prix de la Société des Arts de Genève is a biennial prize awarded since 2009 to a Swiss artist or an artist based in Switzerland whose work has already drawn interest in Switzerland and internationally. Organised as part of the activities of the Société's Classe des Beaux-Arts, the Prize recognises contemporary artists at a crucial stage of their career, providing visibility and financial support to continue their practice. Worth CHF 50'000.-, the prize is complemented by a solo exhibition at the Palais de l'Athénée and a publication. Previous recipients of the Société des Arts Prize are Francis Baudevin (2009), Christoph Büchel (2011), Gianni Motti (2013), Sylvie Fleury (2015), Mediengruppe Bitnik (2017), Renée Levi (2019) and Fabrice Gygi (2021).

Bea Schlingelhoff, *The Crooked: Typefaces for Baseless Rumors*, JRP

Edited by Bea Schlingelhoff, Julien Fronsacq. Softcover, 125 x 195 mm. 776 pages, 366 colored drawings, CHF35 / €40.

Published on the occasion of her exhibition at the Palais de l'Athénée, Geneva (February, 29–March 30, 2024) following her Prix de la Société des Arts de Genève award in 2023, this artist's book by Bea Schlingelhoff gathers together 366 capping phrases used for kōan practice. Selected by the artist from different sources including Victor Sōgen Hori's landmark book *Zen Sand* (2003), she proposes one phrase for each day of a leap year.

Jury of the 8th edition of the Société des Arts Prize

Nominated by the Exhibition Committee of the Classe des Beaux-Arts, the President of the Jury is responsible for selecting a panel of recognised experts in contemporary art. The members of the Jury of the 8th edition of the Prize are Julien Fronsacq (President of the Jury and Head Curator, MAMCO, Geneva), Nina Zimmer (Director, Museum of Fine Arts Bern and Zentrum Paul Klee), Mai-Thu Perret (artist, Geneva), Devrim Bayar (Senior Curator, Kanal Pompidou, Brussels), Giovanni Carmine (Director, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen) and Justine Möckli (representative of the Société des Arts and Assistant Curator, Art and History Museum, Geneva).