

Me myself and I, Socrato, 2024
Caroline Schattling Villeval
Invited by Joyfully Waiting at Basel Social Club
9-16 June 2024

Me myself and I, Socrato is a project conceived around different ways of refocusing on oneself, with a view to future emancipation and openness to the world, suggesting that knowledge of the world comes through self-awareness..

It is a group of frogs, each engaged in a different form of (self-)observation. Bound hand and foot, the frogs interact, each caught in a different action. Following the exhibition *Carences et toute-puissance*, she continues her research on gestures and what constitutes a group, here represented by three individuals: Know Thyself, Self-Help, and Selfy. Each of them evokes a form of self-recentering, starting from the adage *Nosce te ipsum*, borrowed from Socrates, who was inspired by the Pythia. Three ways of being, taken from three different eras, all aiming for a peaceful and better life. The frogs are each covered in spikes, symbols of rebellion with a Hope Punk appearance.

Caroline Schattling Villeval, a Swiss artist, explores through installation, sculpture, video, and sound, a dreamlike universe inhabited by plants and animals. Her works feature characters searching for personal emancipation and a stance towards a society whose conditions of integration are defined by notions and logic inherent to personal development theories, assisted by machines thought to make life easier. The relationships between the characters are erased and virtualized so that the represented communities are effectively isolated and solely responsible for their well-being. The notion of contamination is recurrent in Caroline's work, creating artifacts endowed with the power of dissemination and colonization of information. The depicted motifs form a polymorphic material in constant mutation, bearing a fallen symbolism.

Her work has been shown in various spaces in Switzerland and elsewhere, including Hasch, Marseille, Biquini Wax EPS (Mexico, MX), Set Space (London, GB), Silicon Malley (Prilly, CH), Le Commun (Geneva, CH), Sonnenstube (Lugano, CH) and more recently at Centre d'édition contemporaine and Salle Crosnier, Geneva.

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