

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press release

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

Achievement

21.6. – 8.9.2024

Grafisches Kabinett

Press conference: Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 10 a.m.

Opening & summer party: Thursday, June 20, 2024, 7 p.m.

Performance:

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo: *Statement, 2024*

Thursday, 20.6.2024, 8 p.m.

For her exhibition *Achievement* at the Secession, Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo has developed a new installation, a performance, and an intervention into the building. All three works articulate feminist, anti-racist, and anti-colonial counter-visions, turning the spotlight on the achievements of Black women and championing a form of healing.

In the Graphic Cabinet, the artist presents what appear to be historic black-and-white photographs in a staged archive room, a kind of theatrical setting that evokes the atmosphere of a forgotten storage space. The small-format photographs are stuck between the shelves and in cabinets. The visitors become actively involved in the mise-en-scène as they explore the ostensible archive containing an individual's personal effects, opening drawers, touching and contemplating photographs. All pictures present empowered Black women achieving freedom, justice, development, joy, and much more. Their attire dates the sitters to between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. Only the captions gradually reveal that the unfailingly realistic motifs must have been generated using artificial intelligence: the texts are descriptive instructions on what to depict as well as how.

The reinvention of memory and the critical engagement with archives are central to Delahante Matienzo's research and a strategy that lets her recover the identities and legacies of people who were denied the right to record their own histories. As a Cuban-born artist with African and Chinese roots, she knows from her own family's experience that, for the longest time, oral traditions were the only available sources on which to draw for one's lineage and heritage. In *Achievement*, she presents a fictional and speculative archive that features Black women as prominent, affluent, and esteemed members of society and as hardworking and self-determined businesswomen. In so doing, she not only undertakes a critique of history, she also takes a vital step toward a more nuanced consideration—ultimately, a reprogramming—of beliefs that have seemed impossible to dislodge. Defying the colonial gaze, the artist charts assertive alternative representations.

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“Black people were not only slaves. They did so many things. I really think that artificial intelligence can fill in the gap and contribute to maybe change people’s mindset, at least a little bit.”¹

Her use of AI, currently a subject of heated debates, is refreshingly unconstrained by ideological commitments: AI is a tool, an expedient that uncovers potentials. “I think we should create archives for artificial intelligence images in the future. These archives would be compiling photos based on real moments or situations that we know did exist but for whatever reasons no images could be captured. These images recreate something real, a bit like paintings. For instance, you have many historical paintings, from many historical situations and moments, but no photos could be taken. So, I would say that AI generated images are a way of painting with photography, you know?”²

In addition, an intervention into the architecture of the dome, the first in many years, radically altered the Secession’s appearance for one week in honor of Black women. Inspired by the Bantu knots, a traditional hairstyle originated by the Zulu in South Africa that is over a century old, Delahante Matienzo’s project transformed the golden dome into a black one: Bantu knots adorned the dome’s ca. 2,500 leaves. The artist delved into the subject of natural hair and the oppressive beauty ideals that Black women contend with in a number of works; for the 12th Havana Biennial in 2015, she launched *Lo llevamos rizo: Competition for natural afro hair* [We carry it curly: Competition for natural afro hair], which has since been held through- out the country.

During the opening, the artist delivered a spoken-word performance beneath the Secession’s dome, which is not accessible to the public. The performance was live-streamed, and a recording is now screened in the exhibition.

1 Susana Pilar in conversation with journalist Adiaratou Diarrassouba, in the book accompanying the exhibition

2 ibid

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo was born in Cuba in 1984 and has lived and worked in the Netherlands since 2021.

Project partners

We would like to thank Palmers, without whose generous donation in kind we could not have realized the intervention in the dome.

Programmed by the board of the Secession

Curated by Bettina Spörr

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Publication

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

Format: 21 x 29.7 cm

Details: softcover, 96 pages, postcard

Series design concept: Sabo Day

Graphic design: Sabo Day

Texts: Adiaratou Diarrassouba (conversation), Thomas Lax (conversation), Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

Languages: English, German, Spanish

ca. 50 images

Secession 2024

Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König, Cologne

ISBN 978-3-7533-0626-1

EUR 18.-

The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated publication with two conversations between the artist and the journalist Adiaratou Diarrassouba and Thomas Lax, curator at MoMA in New York, in which she discusses the new photo series *Achievement*, her work with AI image programs, and the role she ascribes to them in the creation of new archives.

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo's artistic intervention for the book is an action: wrapped in black gift paper, the book must first be unwrapped. There is something rebellious about the gesture of tearing open the paper, a nod back to the performance the artist conceived for the opening of her exhibition. On the inward-facing side of the paper, excerpts from her collage of different source texts for the spoken-word performance offer reflections on her identity as a Black woman and artist, on racism and resistance, and on visionary ways of living together.

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Current exhibitions

Hauptraum

Simone Fattal *metaphorS*

21.6. – 8.9.2024

Galerie

Zhou Siwei *I Sold What I Grow*

21.6. – 8.9.2024

Grafisches Kabinett

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo *Achievement*

21.6. – 8.9.2024

Permanent presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Beethoven – Painting and Music in cooperation with
Wiener Symphoniker

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission

Regular € 12,00 | Students under 26 € 7,50

Seniors 65+ € 10,00 | Free admission for children under 12

Press contact Secession

Julia Kronberger

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Press images

download at <https://secession.at/presse>

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Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

Biografie | Biography

Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo, *1984, Havana, Cuba
<https://www.galleriacontinua.com/artists/susana-pilar-22>

Lehre | Teaching

2011 – 2013 HfG |University of Arts and Design, Karlsruhe, Germany

Bildung | Education

2003- 2008 Higher Institute of Art, Havana, Cuba
1999-2003 Graduada de la Academia de Bellas Artes “ San Alejandro”, La Habana, Cuba
1998-1999 José Antonio Díaz Peláez Elementary school, San Alejandro Academy

Residencies

2020, Peter and Irene Ludwig Guest Professorship, The Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
2019-2020, CAD+SR 2019-20 RESEARCH, Italy/Kenya
2019, CIFO Grants & Commissions Program Award, Miami, US
2018, AIR of Fondazione Macc, Calasetta, Italy
2017, AIR of the Art Academy of Vienna, Austria
(Could not attend), Residency of MACRO Museum, Rome, Italy
2016, AiR Skövde, Skövde, Sweden
2016, Apexart fellowship, New York, US
2014, Maretti Award, Havana, Cuba
2014, Kultur Kontakt AIR, Vienna, Austria
2013, Stiftung Künstledorf Schöppingen Residency, Germany
2011-2013, DAAD Scholarship, Germany
2010 - 2011. MAP Residency in ArtEZ-AKI,
in co-organization with Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes and TransArtists, Enschede, Holland
2010, Villa Waldberta Residency, München, Germany
(Could not attend) WIELS Residency, Brussels, Belgium
2009, Darling Foundry Residency, Montreal, Canada
2007, Intermediae-Minbak, Matadero Madrid, Spain

Scholarships & Grants

Fine Arts Academy residency, Wien, Austria
(Uncompleted), MACRO Museum residency, Rome, Italy
El Reino de este mundo residency, AHS, Havana, Cuba
Air Skövde, Skövde, Sweden
Apexart fellowship, New York, New York
Maretti Prize, Havana, Cuba
Kultur Kontakt AIR, Wien, Austria
Stiftung Künstledorf Schöppingen Residency, Germany

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Ecole Supérieure d'Art de la Reunión vinculada with la Bienal de Artes Actuales residency, Isla de la Reunión, France

MAP Residency in ArtEZ-AKI, in co-organization with Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes artistes and TransArtists, Enschede, Holland

Villa Waldberta Residency, Munich, Germany

(Uncompleted) WIELS Residency, Brussels, Belgium

Darling Foundry Residency, Montreal, Canada

Intermediae-Minbak, Matadero Madrid, Spain

Ausstellungen & Projekte (Auswahl) | Exhibitions & projects (selection)

Einzelausstellungen | Solo exhibitions

2024 *Delhante Matienzo Achievement*, Secession, Vienna, Austria

2022 *TRUCK*, Calgary, Canada

2019 *Body Present*, KIOSK, Gent, Belgium

2018 *Jardinera*, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France

2017 *Dibujo intercontinental*, Galleria Continua Habana, Havana, Cuba

Un chino de paso por Venecia, camino a Cuba, ICI VENICE, Venice, Italy.

Bala perdida, Galería Villa Manuela, La Habana, Cuba.

2016 *Reclaiming meaning*, Museum of art of Skövde, Sweden

2015 *Tropiques héritage*, Galerie André Arsenec, Fort de France, Martinica

2014 *Dominadora inmaterial*, Zalle Zèro, Alianza Francesa de La Habana, Cuba

2012 *Schläfer*, NAOS galerie, Karlsruhe, Germany

2011 *Fiebre cerebral*, Galería Villa de Bank, Enschede, Holland

2010 *Llave maestra_Master key*, Curated by Andres Abreu, Zalle Cero, Havana, Cuba.

2008 *Manida obsesión*, Luz y Oficios Gallery, La Havana, Cuba.

Obturación póstuma, Casa del estudiante de Medicina, La Havana, Cuba.

Gruppenausstellungen | Group exhibitions

2022 *El Pasado Mío / My Own Past: Afrodescendant Contributions to Cuban Art*, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery for African and African American Art, Harvard University, Boston, United States

Empowerment, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany

Berlin Biennale, GermanyDakar Biennale, Senegal

Emplotment, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary

2021 *La piel como límite*, Centro Coreográfico Canal, Madrid, Spain

Intersections libres, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France

La Brèche, Galleria Continua, Paris, France

Wild Hairs Edition, Apotheke Lab, Germany

2020 *Mirador circular*, Galleria Continua Habana, Cuba

Diasporic Body – Online Video Program, Fondation PHI pour l'art contemporain, Montreal, Canada

Intersections, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France

Cuba Talks, Commanderie de Peyrassol, Flassans-sur-Issole, France

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- Liebesgrube aus Havanna: Zeitgenössische kubanische Kunst im internationalen Kontext*, Art and Culture Foundation Opelvillen Riisselsheim, Germany
- 2019 *Resilience and Resistance in African Diaspora*, New Museum of African Civilizations, Dakar, Senegal
AKAA - Also Known As Africa Art Fair, Paris, France
Herencia, Saco 7 (Contemporary Art Festival), Foundation Minera escondida, Antofagasta, Chile
INTERCAMBIO: A Conversation Between Two Trains, BLINDSIDE, Melbourne, Australia
Diamante en bruto, Galleria Continua, Havana, Cuba
Cross currents, Smart Museum in partnership with National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, USA
Landlord Colors: On Art, Economy, and Materiality, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, USA
13 Havana Biennale, Cuba.
- 2018 *Altered States Opening*, Kunsthalle Exnegrasse, Vienna, Austria
Inauguration of New Museum of African Civilizations, Dakar, Africa
EXTRA MUROS: Geel – Middle Gate II – The Story of Dymphna, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium
Ola Cuba!, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France
Diamante en bruto, Galleria Continua Habana, Havana, Cuba
INTERCAMBIO: A Conversation Between Two Trains, BLINDSIDE, Melbourne, Australia
Cross currents, Smart Museum in partnership with National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, US
Resilience and Resistance in African Diaspora, New Museum of African Civilizations, Dakar, Senegal
AKAA - Also Known As Africa Art Fair, Paris, France
Herencia, Saco 7 (Contemporary Art Festival), Foundation Minera escondida, Antofagasta, Chile
- 2017 *Cuba mi amor*, Galleria Continua Les Moulins, Paris, France
¿soy Cuba?, Palazzina Teatro Franco Parenti, Milan, Italy
Dobleplay, Fotografía cubana, 1990-2017, Fotomuseo de Cuatro Caminos, México City
Kunst x Kuba, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
Back to Havana, Alabama Contemporary Art Center, EUA
Übersee: Kuba und die Bahamas, HALLE 14, Leipzig, Germany
Disembodied panopticum (shifting metaphor), ROSPHOTO Centre, San Petersburg, Russia
Archivo XX, Acacia Gallery, Havana, Cuba
- 2016 *Nido sin árbol*, UNAICC, La Havana, Cuba.
Cuba. Tatuare la storia, PAC/ZAC, Milano/Palermo, Italy.
Touch the reality, Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna, Austria.
Sabor metálico, Villa Manuela gallery, Havana.
New Talents Biennale 2016, Cologne, Germany.
Kuba libre, Kunsthalle Rostock, Germany.
Señales de Cuba: propuestas femeninas, European Parliament, UNESCO, Paris, France / Antwerp, Belgium.
Intersecciones: Havana-Portland, Oregon, US.
- 2015 *Anclados en el territorio*, Galleria Continua, La Havana, Cuba
Inversion: ART PRESENT project, Sometimes Art Space, Havana, Cuba
WONDER, Travelling Exhibition project curated by FemLink

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- Intimate transgressions*, White Box, New York, USA
Between, inside, outside, 12 Havana Biennale, Cuba
ARSENAL, Collateral to the 12 Havana Biennale
Strictly personal, Spanish embassy, Collateral to the 12 Havana Biennale
2014 *El artista entre la individualidad y el contexto*, Cuban Pavillion, 56 Venice Biennale, Italy
Variaciones contempladas en silencio, Museum of Cuban Art, Havana City, Cuba
Las otras narraciones, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo "Wifredo Lam", La Habana, Cuba.
Salón de Arte Cubano Contemporáneo, Centro de Desarrollo de Arte Visuales, La Habana, Cuba
Y sucedió por fin, galería HABANA, Cuba
4:20, comida interactiva en "Esto no es un café", La Habana, Cuba
Artistas en Residencia Junio 2014, Bundeskanzleramtes am Concordiaplatz, Vienna, Austria
2013 *Arte cubano. Voces y poéticas femeninas (1990-2013)*, Cara and Cabezas, Contemporary Gallery, San Francisco, US.
International Biennale of Contemporary Art (BIAC), Martinique
Cuban virtualities, Tufts University, Boston, USA
Biografía Dilatada, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
2012 *Pararell lines*, NAOS gallery, Karlsruhe, Germany
Video Guerrilha, Brazil
IV Bienal deformes de performance, Chile
Promo encuentro Bienal Arte Contemporaneo di Caribe, Aruba
Circular Motion: Subverting Circumscription Video Installations by Contemporary Cuban Artists, Meridian Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Sommerloch, HfG Karlsruhe, Germany
11 Havana Biennale, Cuba
2011 *50 in the 50*, Acacia gallery, La Havana, Cuba.
III Biennale Arts Actuels Réunion, Reunion Island, France
Altas Presiones, 23 y 12 gallery, La Havana, Cuba
Torbellino II_ Whirlwind II, Curated by Dannys Montes de Oca, HABANA gallery, La Habana, Cuba
Again and Again, Curated by Adrian Paci, Galleria La Veronica arte contemporanea, Modica, Italy
2010 *Black and White*, Wolfart Projectspaces, Rotterdam, Holland.
Images, Imageries, Imaginaires: International Photography Exhibition, Curated by Dominique Fontaine, World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures, Dakar, Senegal.
El extremo de la bala: una decada de arte cubano_ The extreme of the bullet: a decade of cuban art, Pabellon Cuba
Torbellino_ Whirlwind, Curated by Dannys Montes de Oca, Parroquia Santísima Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba
Sujeto omitido Omitted subject, Cátedra Humboldt, La Havana, Cuba
European Book Art Biennale_ 1 edition, Art Museum Satu-Mare, Romania
SUPERNORMAL, Braziers Park, England
Satellite 2010, curated by White Box LIC, Experimental Gallery, Juvenal Reis Art Studios and Residencies, Long Island City, New York, USA

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- Van Gogh Boat*, Villena Gallery, UNEAC, La Havana, Cuba
- 2009 *Maybe Dick II: The Second Youtube Film Festival*, Studio Béluga, Montreal, Canada.
Art-Mortem: La muerte en el arte contemporáneo cubano, Casa Benito Juarez, La Havana, Cuba.
Medium Religion, Model Art and Niland Gallery, Sligo, Ireland.
Estado de excepción (X Bienal de La Habana), Curated by Tania Brugueras, HABANA gallery, Cuba
All that is solid melts into air: Extra Muros exhibition, Curated by MHKA Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp, Mechelen, Belgium.
Simulacros (colateral to the X Bienal de La Habana), Villena Gallery, UNEAC, La Havana, Cuba
Inventario 38_Inventory 38, Fundación Ludwing, La Havana, Cuba
- 2008 *Medium Religion*, Curated by Boris Groys and Peter Weibel, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
Luz a tu química_Light to your chemistry, Institute of Art (ISA), La Havana, Cuba
7ma Gwangju Biennale, South Korea.
Le Fresnoy/ Habana Remix, Museo de Arte Cubano, La Havana, Cuba
- 2007 *Theater of Cruelty*, Curated by Juan Puentes and Raul Zamudio, White Box, New York, USA
Ni a favor ni en contra, todo lo contrario, Artes y Letras Faculty, La Havana, Cuba
- 2006 *Rewritable*, Tania Bruguera's house, La Havana, Cuba
9na in the Carpentry, High Institute of Art, La Havana, Cuba
Pendiente_Pendant, GRANMA's newspaper, La Havana, Cuba
- 2005 *Vistas_Views*, 10 de Octubre gallery, La Havana, Cuba
Public Posters at Romerías de Mayo, Holguin, Cuba
- 2002 *Intimidades_Intimacy*, Bathrooms of San Alejandro academy, La Havana, Cuba
El rostro y la mascara_The face and the Mask, Fayad Jamis gallery, La Havana, Cuba
184 Aniversary of San Alejandro, San Alejandro Academy, La Havana, Cuba
- 2001 *Académica 2001*, San Alejandro academy, La Havana, Cuba
105 Aniversary of Amelia Peláez's Birthday, Amelia Peláez gallery, La Havana, Cuba
- 2000 *Braceando hacia la superficie_Swimming to the surface*, Public Library Enrique José Varona, La Havana, Cuba
Summer Exhibition, Boyeros's gallery, La Havana, Cuba

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Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo ***Achievement***

Werkliste | List of works

Achievement, 2024

Antike und gebrauchte Möbel, 1750 Fotoabzüge von KI-generierten Bildern
Möbel mit freundlicher Unterstützung von Die Glasfabrik | Antique and second hand furniture, 1750 photos of AI-generated images Furniture provided with kind support by Die Glasfabrik

Statement, 2024

Temporäre Intervention auf der goldenen Kuppel der Secession
rund 2500 Blätter, mit schwarzen Strümpfen einzeln überzogen
rund 1250 Paar Strumpfhosen, auseinandergeschnitten und geknotet
Mit freundlicher Unterstützung von PALMERS | Temporary intervention on the golden dome of the Vienna Secession approx. 2500 leaves, covered individually with black stockings
approx. 1250 black tights, cut apart and tied into knots
With kind support by PALMERS GmbH

Statement, 2024

Sprech-Performance unter der Kuppel der Secession während der Eröffnung am 20. Juni 2024
Dauer ca. 1 Stunde, Livestream
Kamera: Ipek Hamzaoglu, Anna Spanlang
Livestream: Bárbara Palomino

Spoken word performance under the dome of the Secession during the opening on 20 June 2024
Duration approx. 1 hour, livestream
Camera: Ipek Hamzaoglu, Anna Spanlang
Livestream: Bárbara Palomino

Dokumentationsvideo der Performance
Kamera: Ipek Hamzaoglu, Anna Spanlang
Drohnenaufnahmen: Gabriel Krajanek
Fotos: Oliver Ottenschläger
Schnitt: Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo |

Documentation video of performance
Camera: Ipek Hamzaoglu, Anna Spanlang
Drone footage: Gabriel Krajanek
Photos: Oliver Ottenschläger
Editing: Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

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Art Education Program

Free admission on the first Wednesday of every month:

August 7, 2024, September 4, 2024

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 5.30pm

Exhibition talk

With Simone Fattal and Emma Enderby (in English)

An event organized by the Secession Friends

July 2 – September 3, 2024

Tuesday@Secession

Our successful weekly art program continues this summer: Every Tuesday from 8 pm until midnight in the garden of the Secession

09.07.2024 – „Constanze Ruhm presents“ Lila-Zoé Krauß (dance performance) and Alexandra Wanderer (stand-up)

16.07.2024 – Michael Zinganel (installation with talks and live music)

23.07.2024 – Billy Roisz (performative sculpture)

30.07.2024 – Bronwyn Lace (performance lecture)

06.08.2024 - Katrin Plavčák/Kinky Muppets (performance)

13.08.2024 – Michael Gumhold (musical accompaniment) + Peter Zolly (projection)

20.08.2024 – Lisa Holzer (discursive event)

27.08.2024 – Susana Pilar (performance)

03.09.2024 – “Carola Dertnig presents” La Georgetta (performance) + Renate Kordon (projection)

A series of events by and with members of the Secession. More information: www.secession.at

Wednesday, July 3, 2024, 10 am–6 pm

Ver mehrt Schönes! Family Day

Together with our long-standing main sponsor Erste Bank we invite you to the Vermehrt Schönes! Family Day. Free admission.

Short guided tours in German:

At 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

We would like to thank Erste Bank for making this day possible.

Sunday, September 8, 2024, 5 pm

Nearly missed it?

Join us on a last-minute tour of the exhibitions by Simone Fattal, Zhou Siwei, and Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo.

Every Saturday

History of the Secession and its architecture, and current exhibitions

Overview tours at 11 am in English and at 2 pm in German.

Admission plus € 3,- guide fee per person.

Kids under 12 free of charge.

The guided tours are also available by appointment.

Contact: kunstvermittlung@secession.at

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Neue Publikationsreihe | New publication series

Die digitalen Publikationen der Secession sind gratis zum Download auf der Website verfügbar:

The digital publications of the Secession are available for free download on the website:

https://secession.at/category/digital_publication

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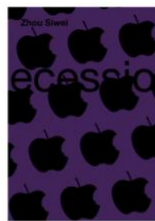
/publikationen

Aktuell



Simone Fattal

[Mehr erfahren](#)



Zhou Siwei

[Mehr erfahren](#)



Susana Pilar Delahante Matienzo

[Mehr erfahren](#)



Katrin Hornek. testing grounds

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