

## **Thea Djordjadze** *the ceiling of a courtyard*

7 October 2023 – 7 January 2024  
WIELS, Brussels

Thea Djordjadze is a Georgian-German, Berlin-based artist who has established an internationally recognized practice over the past 30 years. At WIELS, in the framework of europalia georgia, the artist presents a new body of work, presented in dialogue with existing pieces.

In her artistic practice, Djordjadze proceeds by means of an informed intuition. Djordjadze's sculptures and installations emerge from the artist's acute engagement with the active and latent energies of a space. The works are created in a process that responds to the site, sometimes reflexively, sometimes as an immediate, visceral reaction to the given conditions. Often, images and ideas from literature, design, painting, architecture – particularly, but not limited to, Modernism – flow into Djordjadze's work, leaving a delicate imprint like a testimony or an echo of the artist's encounter with them.

For the post-industrial architecture of WIELS, Djordjadze creates a body of work, examining and challenging not only the formal and material qualities of the building, but also its institutional context. This is a continuation of her interest in display, in presentation devices such as frames and vitrines – which often feature as integral elements of her work – or, more broadly, in the conditions for visibility.

The exhibition at WIELS features new productions which transform the existing architecture itself into a display for small-scale objects and images. With these works, Djordjadze continues to elaborate her eloquent vocabulary of sculptural paintings and painterly sculptures.

**Curator:** Dirk Snauwaert

**Associate curator:** Pauline Hatzigeorgiou

**This exhibition is realized in co-production with** europalia georgia.  
**With the special support of** Sprüth Magers.

## Artist's biography

Thea Djordjadze (\*1971, Tbilisi) lives and works in Berlin.

Selected solo exhibitions include Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain (MAMC), Saint-Etienne (2022), Gropius Bau, Berlin (2021), Kunst Museum Winterthur (2019), Portikus, Frankfurt (2018), Pinakothek der Moderne, Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich (2017), Secession Wien, Vienna (2016), MoMA PS1, New York (2016), South London Gallery (2015), MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA (2014), Aspen Art Museum, CO (2013), Malmö Konsthall (2012), The Common Guild Glasgow (2011), Kunsthalle Basel (2009) and Kunstverein Nürnberg/Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nuremberg (2008). In addition, important group exhibitions include Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2022), Tai Kwun-Centre for Heritage and Arts, Hongkong (2020), Deichtorhallen Hamburg (2019), Triennale di Milano (2017), Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich (2017), 56th Venice Biennale (2015), Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2014), the Georgian Pavilion at the 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2013), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013), documenta 13, Kassel (2012), Sculpture Center, New York (2011), Hayward Gallery, London (2010) and the 5th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (2008).

After her initial art education in Georgia, Djordjadze studied at the Rietveld Akademie in Amsterdam (1993-4), the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (1994-2001) where she was a pupil of Dieter Krieg and Rosemarie Trockel. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, her work is included in public art collections in Europe and the USA.

In 2022, she collaborated with Noé Soulier & Karl Naegelen on a scenography and performance as part of the Kunstenfestivaldesarts. In 2011, KIOSK (Ghent) presented a first exhibition in Belgium, *Quiet speech in wide circulation*.

Djordjadze is represented by Sprüth Magers (Berlin/London/Los Angeles), Kaufmann Repetto (Milan/New York), Galerie Meyer Kainer (Vienna), and Take Ninagawa (Tokyo).

## WIELS

As one of the leading institutions for contemporary art in Europe WIELS presents temporary exhibitions by national and international artists, both emerging and more established. WIELS is a site of creation and dialogue, in which art and architecture form the basis for a discussion about current events and issues, not only through its exhibitions, but also through an international artist-in-residency, an education and community-oriented programme and complementary activities.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PRESS

Press opening and visit: Wednesday 4 October 2023, 14:00

Public opening: Friday 6 October 2023, 19:00

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WIELS

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### Opening hours

Tuesday > Sunday, 11:00-18:00

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month open until 21:00