

# sharp

Clara Lena Langenbach

For all (one) cares

September 13 - October 25, 2024

Opening: September 13, 4 - 7 pm

Discussion with Maya Tekeli: September 15, 3 pm

Clara Lena Langenbach's solo exhibition, *For all (one) cares*, features digitally printed fabric collage wall reliefs of politicians' forehead wrinkles, specifically those of current heads of state and government. Metal push pins, pearls and beads are arranged in a row to reinforce the flattened crevices from the unrecognized detail of the found images. Langenbach is interested in how external forces like media and societal norms shape, critique, and categorize the human body as flawed, ideal, or deviant. By cropping and zooming in on these intimate topographies, she explores the passage of time, the weight of labor, and the physical manifestation of lived intensity.

The heads of state and government list from 2019 and 2024 was found on Wikipedia, the artist then sourced images of said leaders through Google Images. The photos in the fabric collages are squared panels, sized and shaped to match the marble-tiled wall at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where politicians are often photographed during speeches.

In the exhibition space, the reliefs face each other, the first series created from the past list and the second from the present list, suggesting a direct confrontation. What, then, is being compared? Which lines of power persist, like the legacy of colonialism, re-engraved upon our present reality? Do the wrinkles in 2024 carve deeper or appear darker than those from 2019? And can we even make interpretive statements about art referencing politics? Thus, questions of power and responsibility, as well as the representability are critiqued.

The phrase "for all one cares" or "for all who cares" is often used to express indifference or disregard. The etymological background likely stems from the use of "for all," which announces a universally applicable statement not dependent on individual sensibilities.

*For all (one) cares* is Clara Lena Langenbach's second solo show at Sharp Projects. The gallery is open on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and by appointment.