

Deborah-Joyce Holman  
*Close-Up*  
14 Sept–27 Oct 2024

Deborah-Joyce Holman focuses on politics of representation, especially in relation to Black and queer people. Holman counters mechanisms of stereotyping, spectacle and commodification with the withholding of visibility and legibility, and through forms of quiet refusal.

*Close-Up* follows on from the solo exhibition *Living Room* (2023) at Kunsthalle Bern. For the exhibition at Kunstverein Freiburg, Holman has produced a new video work restaging one of the videos shown at Kunsthalle Bern. In part, the work centres on the filmic exploration of a person's interior life as a potential site of resistance. With narrative and performance limited to a minimum, the video portrays a Black actress in a flat doing next to nothing.

However, in the reenactment presented at the Kunstverein, the contemplative act of "doing nothing" is choreographed down to the smallest detail. The scenes precisely reproduce each movement in the earlier video. In this version, shot on 16mm film, Holman works exclusively with close-ups of the actress's face and surrounding interior. These detailed shots, that might suggest intimacy and interiority, are transformed into a monumental projection screen, a barrier that throws back into question the proposed transparency of the filmic image and its generative loopholes.

Deborah-Joyce Holman lives and works in London, UK, and Basel, CH. *Close-Up* is their first solo exhibition in Germany.

Selected solo exhibitions: Swiss Institute, New York, US (2025); *Close-up/Quiet as it's kept*, TANK Shanghai, CN (2024); *Living Room*, Kunsthalle Bern, CH (2023); *Love Letter*, Galerie Gregor Staiger, Zurich, CH (2023); *Moment 2*, Cordova, Barcelona, ES (2022); *Spill I-III*, Istituto Svizzero, Palermo, IT (2022); *Moment 2*, Luma Westbau, schwarzescafé, Zurich, CH (2022); *Unless* (with Yara Dulac Gisler), Cherish, Geneva, CH (2021).

Selected group exhibitions: *Recital*, Arcadia Missa, London, UK (2024); Shedhalle, Zürich, CH (2023); *Cry me a river*, Simian, Copenhagen, DK (2023); 1ere Biennale Son, Sion, CH (2023); *Das Lied der Straße*, Biennale für Freiburg 2, Freiburg, DE (2023); *Creative Friend Group Bar New York*, Sculpture Center, New York City, US (2023); Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, AU (2022); *Eclipse*, 7th Athens Biennale, Athens, GR (2021); *Lemania*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, CH (2021).

## Programme

Thu, 26 Sept, 7 pm  
Curator's Tour with Heinrich Dietz

Thu, 17 Oct, 7 pm  
Guided Tour with Marilena Raufeisen

Sun, 20 Oct, 2–4 pm  
Workshop for Children 6–12 years  
(registration required)

Mon, 21 Oct, 7 pm  
Film Screening  
*The Watermelon Woman* (Cheryl Dunye, 1996)  
Location: Kommunales Kino Freiburg

Sat, 26 Oct, 7 pm  
*Choreographing Nothing: On Black Anteriority*  
Conversation with Rizvana Bradley and Deborah-Joyce Holman  
(online)

Work details / Credits

Deborah-Joyce Holman  
*Close-Up*, 2024  
Video, Sound  
16:43 min.

Actress	Tia Bannon
Producer	Tobi Kyeremateng, Priya Palak
Production Runner	KC Ugwu
Studio Assistant	Shantelle Palmer
Director of Photography	Adenike Oke
First Assistant Camera	Joshua Baylis
Clapper Loader	Vaimiti Lebrere
Gaffer	Chad Morris
Spark	Teriq Roberts
Production Designer	Elizabeth Anibaba
Art Assistant	Hannah Naomi
Editor	Deborah Joyce Holman
Colorist	Anibal Castaño
Sound Designer	Chad Orororo
Unit Stills	Xanthus

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Images courtesy of the artist. Photos by Marc Doradzillo.

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