



PRESS RELEASE

07.12.2024 – 23.02.2025

Mirage

GLEB AMANKULOV, WISRAH C. V. DA R. CELESTINO, KEVIN
JEROME EVERSON, PHILIPP FLEISCHMANN

and

JAHRESGABEN 2024/2025

PRESS TOUR:

Thu, December 5, 2024
11 am

OPENING:

Fri, December 6, 2024
7 pm



Kevin Jerome Everson, *Polly Two* (Film Still), 2018, Copyright: Kevin Jerome Everson, Courtesy: The Artist, Trilobite-Arts DAC, Picture Palace Pictures



Braunschweig, November 27, 2024

The Kunstverein Braunschweig cordially invites you to a press tour of the exhibitions *Mirage* and *Jahresgaben 2024/2025* on **Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 11 am.**

Mirage

GLEB AMANKULOV, WISRAH C. V. DA R. CELESTINO, KEVIN JEROME EVERSON, PHILIPP FLEISCHMANN

The word 'mirage' is derived from the French verb 'se mirer', meaning 'to mirror' or 'to reflect'. It was adopted into the English language in the early 19th century and describes fascinating optical illusions that arise from complex atmospheric conditions and often appear hallucinatory.

The group exhibition *Mirage* brings together works by artists from different generations and backgrounds who resist clear categorization in various media such as film, object, and installation. In this ambiguity, a subtle form of resistance unfolds, attempting to free artistic practices from the expectation of straightforwardness and clear classification. Although the works presented are characterized by facets of abstraction aimed at conveying ideas and concepts through striking visual moments, they still unfold a deeper narrative dimension. This often reveals the artists' perspectives on the world.

The works of Philipp Fleischmann and Kevin Jerome Everson result from an intense engagement with the analog 16mm film format, through which they explore the different dimensions of the medium and present them in the exhibition as large-scale installations. While Philipp Fleischmann examines the concept of *Queer Abstraction* with the series *Film Sculptures* (2022) and deals with non-linear forms of visibility and temporality, Kevin Jerome Everson's work focuses on the observation of everyday phenomena, shaped by his perspective as an African American on the world. His black-and-white film *Condor* (2019), shown in the opulent mirror hall of the Villa Salve Hospes, depicts a solar eclipse that was visible in Chile in 2019 in real-time. In just a few minutes, the moon moves in front of the sun, plunging the image into darkness. Eventually, the moon moves on, and the sun fully illuminates the scene again, creating a play between the colors black and white.

The works of Gleb Amankulov and Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino also always reflect their own life circumstances and the reality of the institution where they exhibit. Amankulov's sculptures, which could also be described as assemblages, consist of objects that the artist collects at the exhibition site. His artistic



approach is characterized by conceptual openness, allowing him to continuously adapt to the local conditions and let them speak for themselves.

For his work, he engaged intensively with the art association and particularly explored the attic of the Villa Salve Hospes. There, he discovered old, unused furniture and inventory of the house. Through this site-specific approach, the house itself becomes a kind of 'main actor' within the exhibition, referencing its past as a privately used residence. As with his other presentations, the sculptures are created only for the duration of the exhibition; after it ends, they are dismantled into their individual components and returned to their original place. Through this approach, Amankulov also undermines the notion of the value and permanence of artworks.

Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino, in her artistic practice, deals with her own biography, the remnants of transatlantic colonialism, as well as the value and status of artworks. Her work *Peso* (Portuguese for 'weight') consists of 120 metal containers filled with municipal water, corresponding to the artist's body weight. Over the course of the exhibition, the water will gradually evaporate, escaping the artist's control and being influenced solely by the climate of the exhibition space.

The works of Amankulov and Celestino thus also provide insights into the artistic spectrum in dealing with the before and after of an exhibition. They address the institutional conditions under which art is created and simultaneously reveal their limits. *Mirage* subtly questions our perception of art and the expectations associated with it. The moments of reflection manifest not only as optical effects but also as multifaceted artistic concepts that reflect the different perspectives and life stories of the artists. Similarly, *Mirage* invites the audience to develop their personal approach to the presented works.

Curator: Cathrin Mayer



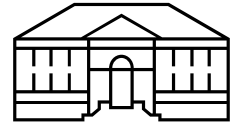
JAHRESGABEN 2024/2025

In addition to the mentioned exhibition, the Kunstverein Braunschweig will showcase the Jahresgaben 2024/2025 from December 7, 2024, to February 23, 2025.

In this year's Jahresgaben exhibition on the first floor of the classical villa, traces from the building's history and past exhibitions collide with the various structures that shape the work at the Kunstverein today.

With new contributions by Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino, Dennis Siering and Bruno Zhu, among others, as well as a selection of previous Jahresgaben.

Curator: Junia Thiede



PROGRAM

Public Guided Tour

Thursdays 6 pm and

Sundays 3 pm

Only during the exhibition period

Free of charge, plus admission

Thu, December 26, 2024, cancelled due to public holiday

Curator's Tour

Thu, December 12, 2024, 6 pm with director Cathrin Mayer

Thu, February 20, 2025, 6 pm with director Cathrin Mayer

Free of charge, plus admission

Artist Talk

Wed, January 22, 2025, 6 pm with Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino

Free of charge, plus admission

In English language

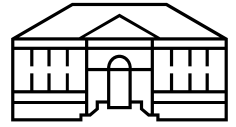
Film screening

Fri, January 31, 2025, 6 pm

In cooperation with the film class of the HBK Braunschweig

Free of charge, plus admission

On one evening during the exhibition, the Kunstverein Braunschweig will turn into a cinema. Students from HBK Braunschweig will present their self-produced films on a large screen in the Spiegelsaal. Afterward, they will discuss their films with the audience. The experimental films, created in Michael Bryntrup's film class, focus on self-reflection and media reflections, making them a perfect fit for the theme and title of the *Mirage* exhibition.



Workshop (for children aged 5 to 11)

Treasures of Everyday Life

Fri, December 13, 2024, 3-5 pm

Fri, January 24, 2025, 3-5 pm

Material costs: € 2.50

What is art? Can everything around us become art? Together, we want to explore these and other questions.

Inspired by the works of Gleb Amankulov, participants in the workshop will have the opportunity to design and create their own artworks using everyday objects. Kitchen utensils, small furniture pieces, tools, office supplies—everything is allowed. Participants are also welcome to bring their own finds from flea markets, the streets, or their own homes. But don't worry: after documenting the creations, the artworks can be dismantled, and the objects returned to their normal use.

In addition, participants will get a rare glimpse into typically hidden spaces like the Kunstverein's workshop, where they can search for objects to use in their creations. At the end of the workshop, the artworks will be photographed, and each participant will take home a Polaroid photo as a keepsake.

Registration:

T 0531 49556 or vermittlung@kunstvereinbraunschweig.de

AVAILABLE OFFERS

Guided tours and workshops for groups and school classes. The program, conditions and information can also be found on our [website](#).

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON ALL OFFERS

T 0531 49556 or vermittlung@kunstvereinbraunschweig.de



SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Philipp Fleischmann (*1985 Hollabrunn, lives and works in Vienna)



Philipp Fleischmann, Courtesy of the artist,
Photo: Carolina Frank

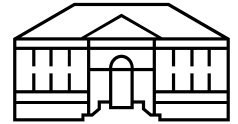
Fleischmann has been artistic director of the Friedl Kubelka School for Independent Film, Vienna, since 2014. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and the Friedl Kubelka School for Independent Film. His work has been exhibited and honoured internationally at film festivals and exhibition spaces, including: Salzburger Kunstverein, Secession Vienna, Vienna Film Museum, Berlin International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Mumok Vienna, Diagonale Film Festival, Viennale Film Festival, International Rotterdam Film Festival, São Paulo Biennial, Biennale de Lyon.

Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino (*1989, Buritizeiro) lives and works in many places.



Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino, Courtesy of
the artist, Photo: Ana Pigosso

Through score, sculpture, text, photography, sound and video, the artist explores the remaining structures of the transatlantic colonial project, focussing on institutional critique, language and objecthood. In 2023, they completed postgraduate studies at the Braunschweig University of Art. Their work has been shown internationally, including at: Kunsthalle Bremen, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Kadist, France, Museu Nacional da República, Curitiba Biennial and Pampulha Art Museum, Brazil. Celestino has received numerous awards, including the ars viva Prize for Fine Arts 2025 and the Braunschweig Projects of the State of Lower Saxony, Germany, the Pampulha Grant, Brazil.



Kevin Jerome Everson (*1965 Mansfield, lives and works in Charlottesville)



Kevin Jerome Everson, Courtesy of the artist, Photo: Sandy Williams III

Everson's work includes street photography, printmaking, sculpture and film. He is Professor and Director of Studio Art at the University of Virginia. Everson studied at the University of Akron and Ohio University, Athens.

His works and films have been presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the Tate Modern, London, the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Berlinale, Berlin, the Sundance Film Festival, Utah, the Locarno, Venice and New York Film Festivals, among others. He has been honoured with the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Alpert and the Heinz Award as well as by the American Academy in Berlin.

Gleb Amankulov (*1988 in Minsk, lives and works in Vienna)

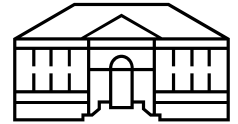


Gleb Amankulov, Courtesy of the artist, Photo: Klaus Pichler

Amankulov's practice focuses on the working conditions in art production. One theme is the precarious elements of this way of life, which he questions simultaneously with the commercialisation of art production and the fetishisation of the art object.

He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and at the Belarusian State Academy of Fine Arts in Minsk. His works have been exhibited at the Kunsthalle and Belvedere, Vienna, WAF Gallery, Vienna, Fffriedrich, Frankfurt, Leopold Museum and mumok, Vienna, among others.

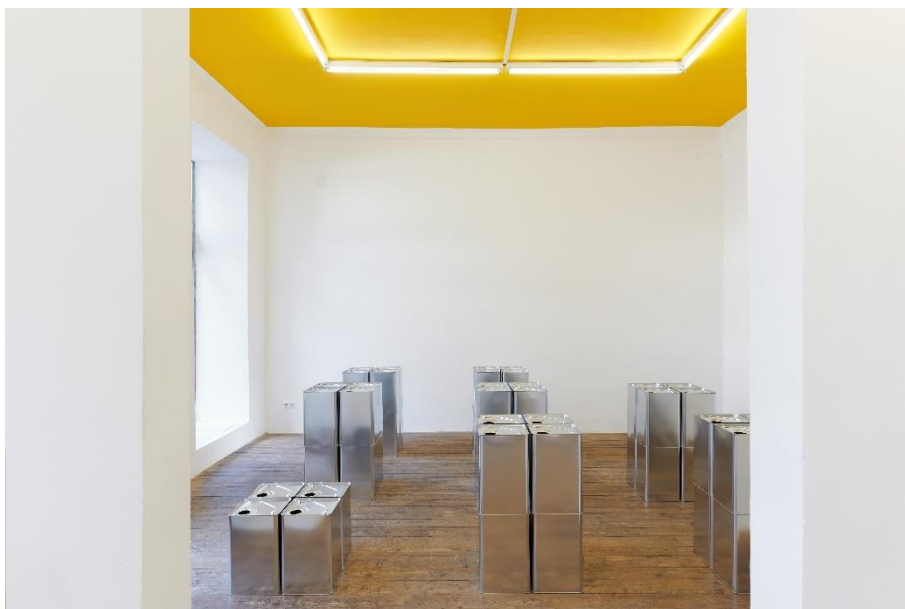
He has received numerous grants and prizes, including from the City of Vienna, the WHW Akademija, Zagreb, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Kunsthalle Wien.



PREVIEW



Philipp Fleischmann, *Film Sculpture 1*, 2022, Wonnerth Dejaco Wien, Courtesy: the Artist and Wonnerth Dejaco, Photo: Peter Mochi



Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino, *Peso*, 2024, Kunstverein Kevin Space, Courtesy: the artist and Kunstverein Kevin Space, Photo: Maximilian Anelli-Monti



Kevin Jerome Everson; *Polly Two* (film still), 2018, Courtesy: the artist; trilobite-arts DAC; Picture Palace Pictures, Copyright: Kevin Jerome Everson



Gleb Amankulov, *Goosebumps seat / Opportunity Window*, 2024, COMMUNE Wien 2024, Courtesy: The artist and COMMUNE, Photo: Manuel Carreon Lopez



Exhibition views will be available in the [press section of our website](#) from **December 9, 2024.**

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Opening hours:
Tue – Fri 12 pm – 6 pm
Thu 12 pm – 8 pm
Sat, Sun 11 am – 6 pm

TEAM
Director:
Cathrin Mayer

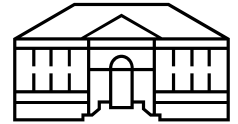
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Junia Thiede

Exhibition and Mediation Assistant:
Monja Remmers

Press and Public Relations:
Bianca Strauß

BFD-Culture:
Shaina Helbing

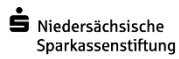
Exhibition Supervisor:
Iris Schneider



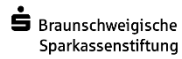
Building services:
Gerald Knöchel

Secretary:
Christine Gröning

The exhibition is supported by:



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Niedersächsisches Ministerium
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Stadt **Braunschweig**
Fachbereich Kultur und Wissenschaft