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PRESS RELEASE

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Announcing *Garage Exchange*:

Antwerp with Benjamin Hirte & Nancy Lupo

Dates: August 26th — October 3rd, 2021

Hours: Saturday & Sunday, 11am - 5pm

Location: Mackey Apartments Garage Top Gallery

Address: 1137 S. Cochran Avenue, Los Angeles 90019

Artist Talk + Opening Reception

Aurora Tang in conversation with Benjamin Hirte and Nancy Lupo

Thursday, August 26th — 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Mackey Apartments Garage Top Gallery

1137 S. Cochran Avenue, Los Angeles 90019





Benjamin Hirte, Videostill from *First Houses* 2020. Image courtesy of artist.

Nancy Lupo, *Popcorn Isn't Cotton Balls Isn't Breadcrumbs But Also Isn't Not*, 2018. Image courtesy of artist.

Announcing Garage Exchange: *Antwerp* with Benjamin Hirte and Nancy Lupo

The MAK Center for Art and Architecture presents *Antwerp*, with new work by Benjamin Hirte and Nancy Lupo for the seventeenth iteration of the Garage Exchange series.

Benjamin Hirte and Nancy Lupo draw from the mundane world of both designed and happenstance objects as they are encountered on the street. Public or semi-public spaces are formative sites, as plazas, parking lots, and transit centers become starting points for Lupo and Hirte to navigate the unnoticed effects of the built environment on us.

Benjamin Hirte's recent works probe everyday forms through the processes of 3D scanning, turning a passive act of imaging into an active mode of perceiving. Many of Hirte's past projects have traced the contours of industrial or mechanized forms—from rubber gaskets and seals, to aluminum panels and door hinges—and recast them into sculptural works through a manipulation of scale, format, and material. By combining his sculptural practice with digital procedures of 3D scanning, a process that reconstitutes a three-dimensional object or environment through a collection and re-presentation of data-rich images, Hirte captures the shapes and contours of our world through the feedback loop between image, data, and form. Alongside new work, the exhibition presents Hirte's residency project *Lots*, which feature two hanging rubber sheets intimating a bird's eye-view of a parking lot, alongside a scaled model of a scissor stairwell, extracted from its architectural housing.

The intertwining of care and cruelty that is evidenced in public furnishings and civic space are a recurring motif in Nancy Lupo's practice. For *Antwerp*, Lupo produced a new iteration in an ongoing series of works which approximate and index civic benches in three-quarter scale. From the baroque curlicues of bench legs found on Nanjing road in Shanghai's commercial shopping district, to the tooth-like /

tombstone-like benches derived from Termini train station in Rome and recast in three-quarter scale for Pershing Square, each instantiation asks how space and bodies (human and non-human) arise in response to external systems of control and influence. Lupo's current project looks to the forms of defensive architecture within the seating arrangements of Morphosis' Caltrans District 7 Headquarters, where tubular steel pipes become antihomeslessness devices arching their way across a plaza of concrete slabs.

While ubiquity is a key condition of their sources, Hirte and Lupo's sculpture and video works insist on a closer reading of the everyday objects that arise from civic and municipal systems and decision-making. By excavating specific qualities of mundane objects—color, weight, texture, shape, and mood—both artists ask questions about their effect on both political and urban bodies.

Artist Bios

Benjamin Hirte

Benjamin Hirte (b. 1980, Aschaffenburg, Germany) lives and works in Vienna and New York. Recent exhibitions include *First Houses*, Galerie Emanuel Layr, Vienna (2020); *The Jurist*, with Anna-Sophie Berger, CICCIO, New York (2020); *A horse and a deer*, with Anna-Sophie Berger, Arakawa Ku, Tokyo (2019); *Trust*, Sydney, Sydney (2019); *Benjamin Hirte & Chadwick Rantanen*, Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome (2017); *Benjamin Hirte and Christoph Knecht*, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2015).

Nancy Lupo

Nancy Lupo (b. 1983, Flagstaff, AZ) lives and works in Los Angeles. Her recent projects include *window where we* at Galeria Dawid Radziszewski, Warsaw, Poland; *Open Mouth*, a public commission for Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles as part of CURRENT LA: FOOD, the 2019 Public Art Triennial; and *Scripts for the Pageant*, Lupo's first solo museum exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego. Her work was also featured in *Made in L.A. 2018*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; *Los Angeles – A Fiction*, Mac, Lyon (2017) and Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2016); *The Poet, The Critic, and the Missing*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2016); and *Taster's Choice*, MoMA PS1, New York (2014).

About the Garage Exchange

In order to expand the cultural exchange at the core of the Artists and Architects-in-Residence program, The Austrian Federal Chancellery and the MAK Center invite Austrian and Vienna-based alumni residents to collaborate with L.A. artists and architects of their choosing at the Mackey Apartments Garage Top Gallery for the Garage Exchange Vienna-Los Angeles exhibition series.

This exhibition series is made possible by The Austrian Federal Chancellery.