



CRIPTO SIRENAS

February 19 – April 17, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION

Wedns., February 19
from 6:00-8:30pm

**OPENING HOURS
Regular**

Mon.-Thurs.
from 10am-6pm
through April 17

Extended

Fri., February 21
from 10am-6pm
Sat., February 22
from 12-6pm

The Goethe-Institut New York is pleased to present the first New York institutional exhibition featuring a temporary collective with Berlin-based artists Anna Ehrenstein and Sunny Pfalzer, and San Salvador-based artists Lucy Tomasino and Alexa Evangelista, in collaboration with Web-3 researcher, Josh Davila.

Set in a near-future dystopian world overrun by corrupt techno-totalitarianism, *CRIPTO SIRENAS* features a new cycle of works by Anna Ehrenstein, Sunny Pfalzer, Lucy Tomasino, and Alexa Evangelista. Utilizing somatic writing sessions and free-body movement workshops, the artists leverage the politics of collaboration to project a world not-too-far from our own, which has been ravaged by an unfettered and rapacious technology industry. Simultaneously a satirization and cautionary tale, the works in this exhibition use the narrative of an antagonistic "crypto ballerina" who acts as a savior in a fictional technofascist society, offering artistic strategies of resistance and perseverance in the face of real-world technofascism. Drag, dance, and a fluid and moist dreamscape function as the blades cutting through the oppressive block chain. The exhibition displays the artists' joint vision of the near future, unveiling the imaginary country El Liberador, ruled by an authoritarian tech-solutionist president who is also the CEO of the country's biggest tech firm, BETA.

In recent years, the world has borne witness to an alarming rise in far-right politics and the pandering of the tech industry to appease them. The class of billionaire elites today have an outsized role in global governance, which threatens digital security, bodily autonomy, and freedom of speech, all the while further devastating the environment with massive energy usage. Based on research conducted during Ehrenstein's and Pfalzer's 2024 residency in El Salvador, the works evoke fictionalizations and speculations of real contemporary trends. The narrative that blockchain technology can "bank the unbanked" or provide decentralized financial solutions often mask underlying motives of neocolonial economic extraction and control from western exchanges in the Global South.

Curated by Zachary B. Feldman with curatorial assistance by Mattis Thomsen and Mayu Isabelle Uno.

This exhibition is made possible in part thanks to support by the Federal Ministry Republic of Austria: Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, and YES Contemporary.

For Press Inquiries and
appointment viewings,
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 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria**
Arts, Culture,
Civil Service and Sport

YES
Contemporary Art El Salvador

Artist Bios

Anna Ehrenstein is a transdisciplinary and collaborative artist who works between Berlin and Tirana. She studied photography and media art in Dortmund and Cologne and has spent numerous residencies and research stays in places such as Valetta, Lagos, Johannesburg and Bogotá. She is currently professor at the HGB Leipzig. In her transdisciplinary artistic practice, Ehrenstein uses photography and video, digital technology and installation, social gatherings or sculptures to reflect on the overlaps and contrasts between high and low culture and their socio-political contexts. Ehrenstein was born in Germany to Albanian parents. Her work traverses material cultures of the periphery and networked visual worlds, incorporating media technology, performance, text and installation. She works with a variety of groups on collaborative projects and believes in the radical possibilities of collective unlearning. Her works have been shown at Office Impart, Berlin, the Museum Centquatre Paris, the Lagos Biennale, the Landesmuseum Linz, KOW Berlin, the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, and Bazament Art Space, Tirana, among others.

Sunny Pfalzer is a performance and visual artist, a Freediver, a Go-Go-Girl and a Slug. Whether they perform on stage, sew textile sculptures, hold a camera, or choreograph for public spaces, their approach is always bodily and felt. Sunny depicts how body language and clothes can construct statements. Sunny transforms their practice into various mediums. Costumes become sculptures, live Performances translated into Video works, installations mutate to social spaces. Facilitating workshops and collaborating is an integral part of Sunny's practice, as these formats provide time and space to share knowledge, lived experience, time to reflect and unlearn together. Sunny's recent presentations include KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin, Kunsthalle Vienna, Shedhalle Zurich; Les Urbaines Lausanne; Wiener Festwochen, Centro Gulbenkian Lisbon and SAIC Chicago. Sunny is Guestprofessor for fine arts at the HSLU Luzern.

Lucy Tomasino is a visual artist based in El Salvador. Lucy graduated with a degree in Communication Sciences with a specialization in Multimedia from Universidad Don Bosco in 2017. Her artistic practice explores playful and sonorous expressions through diverse mediums such as photography, public space actions, performance, and installation. Her impactful works often transform urban environments, creating immersive and thought-provoking experiences. Lucy's art has been showcased internationally, with notable exhibitions including ADAPTAJES Cura Collected at Knockdown Center in New York (2019), PS122 Gallery in New York (2022), SWAB Barcelona (2022), and HispaFest at Pinecrest Gardens in Miami (2022). Her innovative approach to blending multimedia with public interventions has positioned her as a significant contributor to contemporary art, engaging audiences and challenging conventional perspectives. She has received the 2024 Prince Claus Seed fund and is currently directing the artist run space Espacio42b in San Salvador.

Alexa Evangelista is a queer artist from El Salvador whose practice engages deeply with the intersections of visual and plastic arts, drag, and performance. Their work is rooted in a commitment to political advocacy and social justice, addressing the lived realities of the LGBTIQ+ community in El Salvador. By taking their art to both the streets and performance stages, they aim to challenge societal norms, foster dialogue, and create a space for queer visibility and resistance. Evangelista has cultivated their practice through formal education in Interior Architecture at the Universidad Dr. José Matías Delgado (2015-2016) before transitioning to a focus on fine arts, completing courses in drawing and painting at CENAR (2018-2019). Their artistic journey expanded further through an intensive theater workshop with Grupo Teatro Célula (2020), culminating in a Bachelor's Degree in Plastic Arts from the Universidad de El Salvador in 2021. Their commitment to the transformative potential of performance art has led to significant opportunities, including participation in the Mix Central American Tropical Drag Royale - Candyland residency in Nicaragua (2023), performances and workshops at the Centro Cultural de España in San Salvador (2023), la Casa at the Alianza Francesa in San Salvador (2023) in club contexts and public space, making a vital contribution to the discourse on queer methodologies in Central American art production.

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