

Bonne Chance, Installation as part of Momentum  
at Neues Museum Nuernberg  
from 26.05.2023 to 24.09.2023

Momentum is an opportunity to be grasped. The concept of momentum combines two meanings contained in moment – the swift passing of time and the energy generated by a specific situation. If this energy is positive, we can speak of momentum. The exhibition asks whether today's crisis-ridden moment also offers momentum.

Filmed at the Bonneville Salt Flats, the dried remains of an primeval lake – today, a vast salt desert, which serves as a land-speed-record test ground and for mining salt and using the artists shadow and a butterfly (*Colias philodice*) as motifs, Johanna Strobel's video explores concepts of the here and now, the there and then, the relationship of change and time and one's own mutable standpoint in a world that is undergoing devastating changes due to human influences, through an intra- and intertextual elliptical narrative carried by a voice-over and digitally generated sounds as well as animated subtitles.

The video is accompanied by a broken modular sculpture forming a Newton's pendulum. The sculpture's modules made from salt are shaped like double-sided fists. Each contains a ceramic core formed like a knot. The symbol of the fist speaks to change, a revolutionary force and transformation, while the knot inside is unsolvable, infinite, eternal. Five of the six fists form the Newton's Pendulum and break and change every time the sculpture is activated: the cocoon of the salt fists breaks open with every swing and reveals the ceramic knot while the salt crust falls to the floor where it remains as a relic of change. The activation is repeated weekly, each time changing the sculpture and movement irreversibly. The sixth sculpture is installed after a greater gap. It is outside the system and cannot be hit by the swinging system. It remains unchanged while formally indicating the movement.

Through the interplay of the video and the sculpture, Strobel succeeds in the sensual-poetic representation of past moments. Bonne Chance may thus be an appeal not to let the momentum for efficient climate protection pass.

Bonne Chance, 2023, video, 11:47min, salt, ceramics, paraffin, steel cable, performance, momentum, 6 pieces, each 18 x 18 x 18 in. (46 x 46 x 46 cm)

weekly performative activation

<https://vimeo.com/839086044>

photo credit: Dominik Bindl, Annette Kradisch