VIRGINIA ARIU

Portfolio

### WHAT'S GOT INTO ME

June 5 - August 15, 2024 City Galerie Wien, Vienna, AT

Holistic Jumps 1, 2024

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight II, 2024

Inkjet print on glossy paper 120×90 cm

Holistic Jumps II, 2024

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

Holistic Jumps III, 2024

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

Transit, 2023

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight I, 2024

Inkjet print on glossy paper 90×120 cm

Wheeling, 2024

Framed Polaroids (3×)

The Admiral, 2023

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight III, 2024

Inkjet print on glossy paper 120×90 cm

SchizoHermeneutics, 2023

Framed Polaroid, variable dimensions

Traded Pawn, 2023

Oil on Canvas 10×10 cm

Describe It, Fix It and Modify It, 2024

Polaroids  $7 \times 4 \text{ cm } (2 \times)$ 

At Times the Real Was Daylight V, 2024

Inkjet print on glossy paper  $120 \times 90$  cm

Holistic Jumps IV, 2024

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

Holistic Jumps V, 2024

Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight VI, 2024

Inkjet print on glossy paper 90×120 cm

A Bit Less of Gravity, 2023

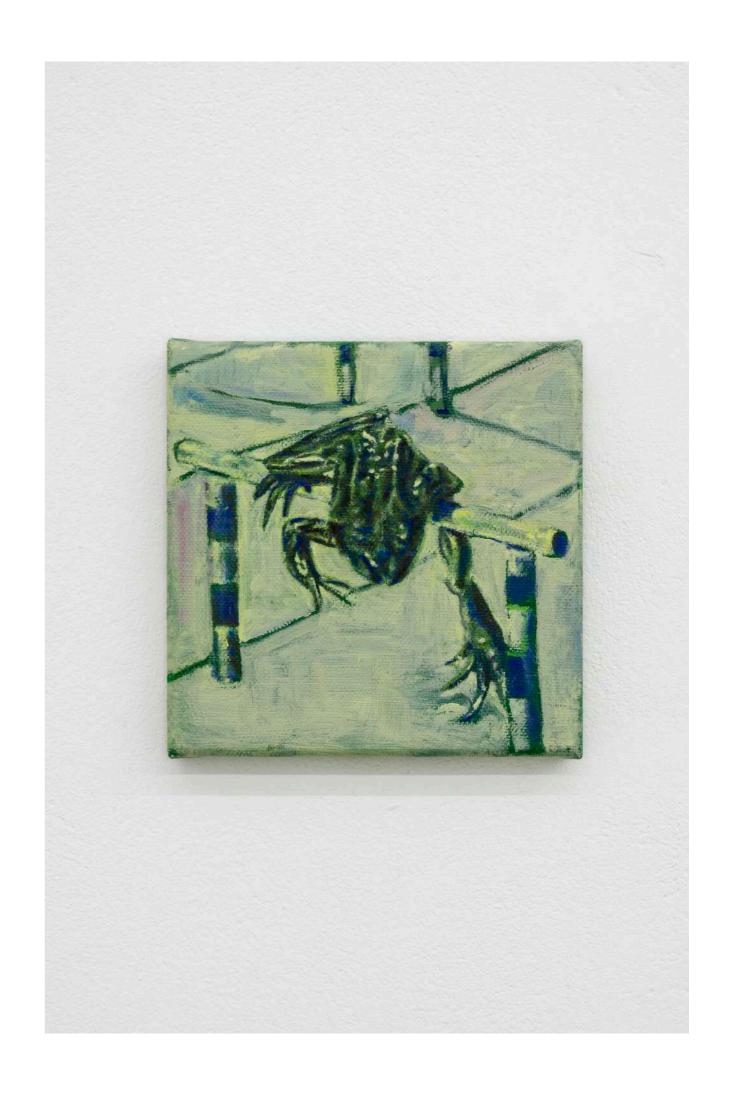
Oil on Canvas 15×15 cm

Sublimation (in My Time of Need), 2023

Oil on Canvas 10×10 cm

Distorted Mind, 2023

Oil on Canvas 10×10cm











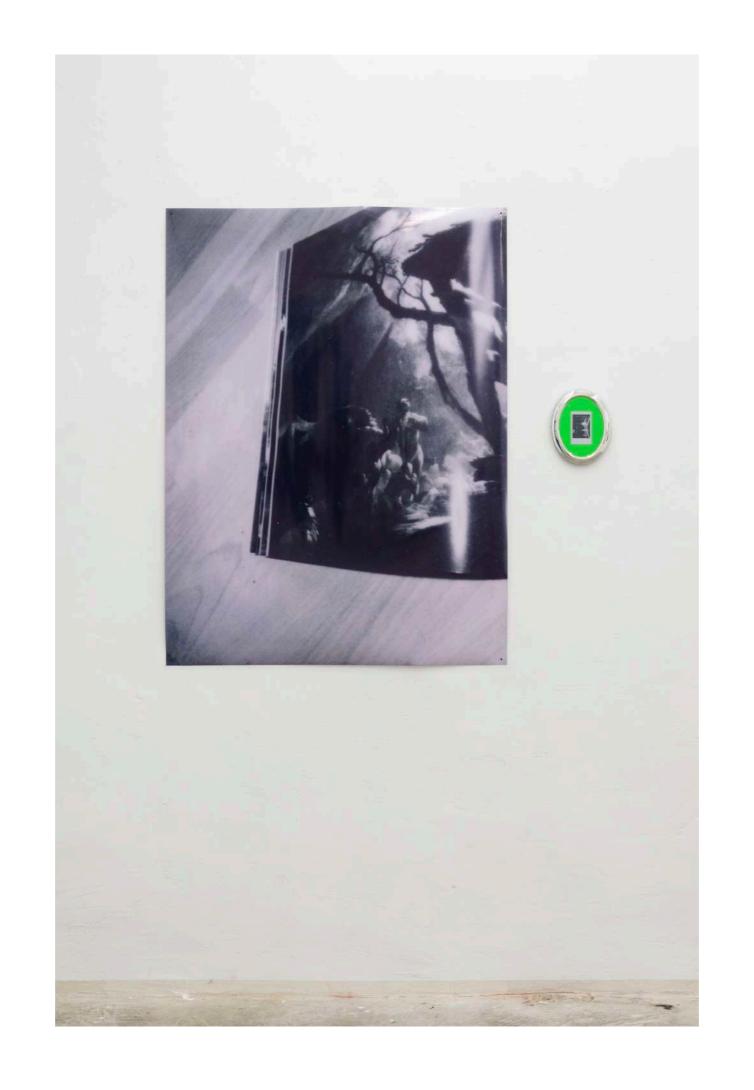


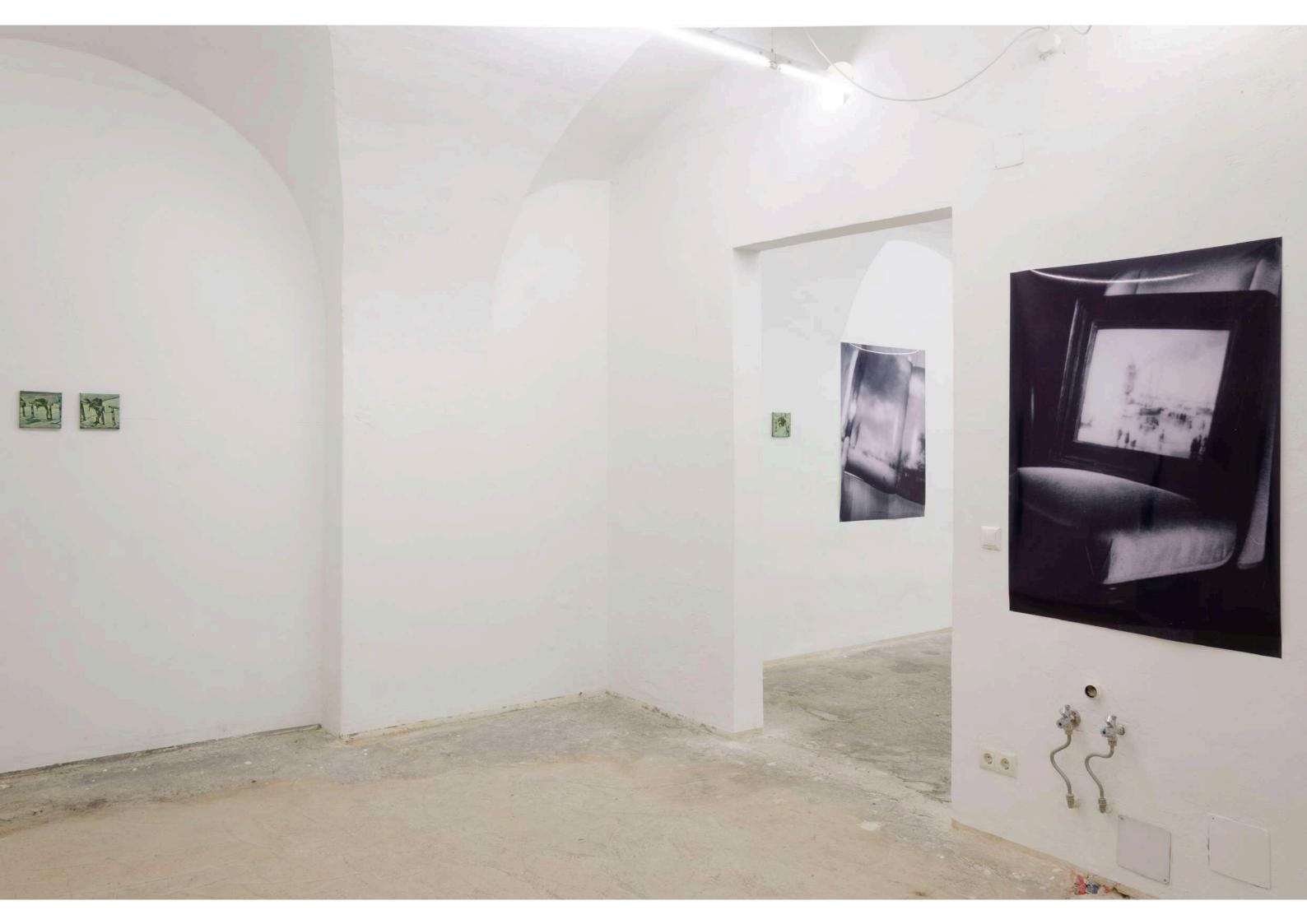






























# WHAT WHERE / WAS WO With Vittorio Santoro

With Vittorio Santoro April 27 - May 25, 2024 Lighthaus, Zürich, CH







## **BUREAU BOLLITO**

Curated by Reto Sorg and Urs Zahn Jan. 15 – Dec. 20, 2024 Robert Walser Zentrum, Bern, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Peter Fischli, Lisa Hoever, Fabian Marti, Annina Matter, Ivan Mitrovic, Emanuel Rossetti

Paintings reference: <a href="https://ch-studien.uni.wroc.pl/reklame-uhr-klingel-knopfe-glaskugel-zu-den-gegenstanden-in-robert-walsers-roman-der-gehulfe/">https://ch-studien.uni.wroc.pl/reklame-uhr-klingel-knopfe-glaskugel-zu-den-gegenstanden-in-robert-walsers-roman-der-gehulfe/</a>

The office was completely green with malicious joy, a piercing green, 2023 Oil on canvas  $15\times15~\rm cm$ 

Unambiguous Demand, 2023 Oil on canvas 10×10 cm (2×)



# **EMOZIONALE 3 PART 2** Sept. 23 – Oct. 15, 2023

City Galerie Wien, Vienna, AT

Works by Virginia Ariu, Stefania Batoeva, Xenia Bond, Billy Coulthurst, Olivia Coeln, Zoë Field, Evan Jose, Jared Madere, Emmanuel Troy

## Old Skin New Skin, 2023

Newspaper crops, Polaroid, pigments and oil on canvas  $33 \times 36.4 \text{ cm}$ 

Installation view, works by Virginia Ariu (left) and Evan Jose (right)

Installation view, works by Virginia Ariu (left) and Stefania Batoeva (right)

Maschines Gegen den Tod, 2023

Newspaper crops, polaroid, pigment on canvas  $62.7 \times 37.2 \text{ cm}$ 





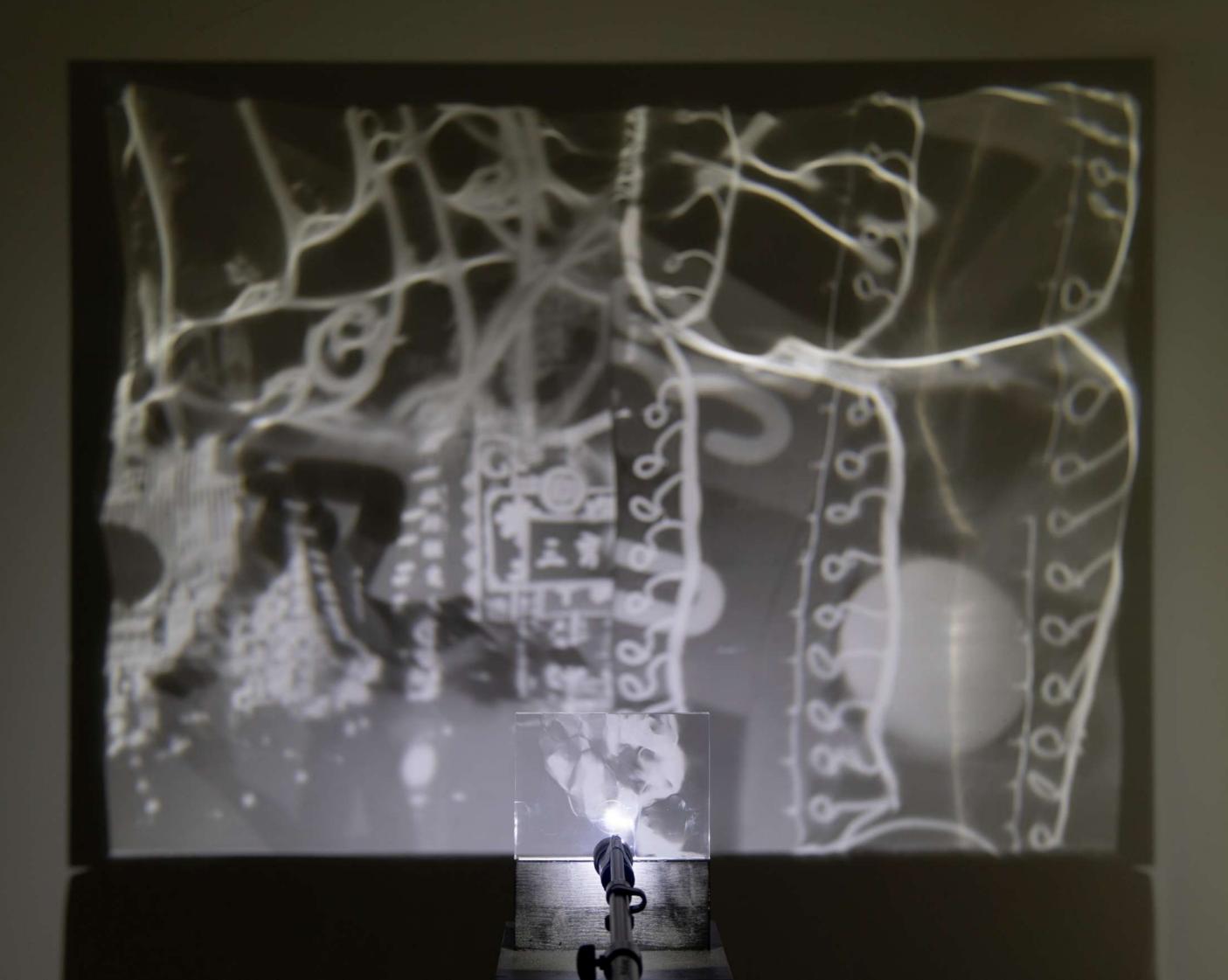




# July 20, 2023 La Becque, La Tour-de-Peilz, CH Works by Virginia Ariu, Ellen Arkbro & Marcus Pal, Esra Elfeky, Florian Hecker, Nicole L'Huillier, Hanne Lippard, Zinzi Minott, Davi Pontes

**OPEN STUDIOS** 





"It is true that a software cannot exercise its powers of lightness except through the weight of hardwares. But it's the software that gives orders, acting on the outside world and on machines that exist only as functions of the software and evolve so that they can work out ever more complex programs. The second industrial revolution, unlike the first, does not present us with such crushing images as rolling mills and molten steel, but with "bits" in a flow of information traveling along circuits in the form of electronic impulses. The iron machines still exist, but they obey the orders of weightless bits. Is it legitimate to turn to scientific discourse to find an image of the world that suits my view?

[...] The De Rerum Natura of Lucretius is the first great work of poetry in which knowledge of the world tends to dissolve the solidity of the world, leading to a perception of all that is infinitely minute, light, and mobile. Lucretius set out to write the poem of physical matter, but he warns us at the outset that this matter is made up of invisible particles. He is the poet of physical concreteness, viewed in its permanent and immutable substance, but the first thing he tells us is that emptiness is just as concrete as solid bodies. Lucretius' chief concern is to prevent the weight of matter from crushing us. Even while laying down the rigorous mechanical laws that determine every event, he feels the need to allow atoms to make unpredictable deviations from the straight line, thereby ensuring freedom both to atoms and to human beings. "

When light rays refract through a curved surface, they concentrate into bright patches called caustics. The movement of water and light is representative of this principle, which in optics is referred to as caustic projection. Caustic design, a modern process that uses a similar approach by means of computational technology, creates seemingly random patterns that systematically modify the shape of an object, so that, in the entirety of refractions, an actual image is drawn. To do so, a computer algorithm calculates different parameters: the tridimensional surface from an image, the position of the light and the focal distance to the light image. Once these three elements are defined and it's possible to specify where they are in the space, the software finds an ideal configuration to realise the image. Then, through the use of an algorithm, the software changes the generator (the object), so the light coming from the source gets redirected to the receiver (for instance a wall), gathering these information into an image. The appearing image results by moulding the object's shear surface variation: a set of strains is produced by pressure in the structure of a substance (in this case plexiglas) and its layers shift in relation to each other. The image, calculated for one specific configuration of light, object, and position of the image, is then reproduced around this configuration: when moving away from this ideal configuration, the image slowly warps and disappears.

The research initiated at La Becque employs caustic design in the creation of sculptural-photographic hybrids, drawing parallels to one of Italo Calvino's books, *Six Memos for the Next Millennium* (1988). In the book, the writer considers the virtues of lightness, in his view one of literature's most significant qualities, and envisions how to project them into the future. The work presented at the Open Studios elaborates a visual transposition of Calvino's literary understanding of lightness, encompassing both aspects of the term: luminescence and weight subtraction.

In the first memo, *Lightness*, Calvino imagines an era in which "weightless bits" travel along circuits as electronic impulses in an information flow. Following this principle, the project employs the technology developed by Rayform, a spin-off of the EPFL, which created a computer algorithm able to generate light shaping surfaces. Like a dream of dematerialisation rebooted for a cyberspatial era, the work is itself a note, or preliminary draft, for the creation of a modern analogy of the *Allegory of the Cave* in an age of computer-generated images. The project presents an oneiric dimension where the cave becomes a fictional universe that discards continuity to re-shape its characters, plot-lines and backstory from zero. Where images, similarly to refractions, dissipate in rippled patterns as if they were adjacent to water.

### **DIDACTIC POETRY**

June 1st - Sept. 23, 2023 Galerie Kirchgasse, Steckborn, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Jean-Luc Blanc, Andrea Celeste La Forgia & Max Fletcher, Costanza Candeloro, Thomas Hesse, Elza Javakhishvili, Peter Kamm, Sarah Lehnerer, Birgit Megerle, Angelbert Metoyer, Mathis Pfäffli, Matthias Sohr, Megan Francis Sullivan, Anna Zacharoff

Organized by Anne Gruber, Philipp Schwalb and Stephan Steiner

Exercise No. 1 (Didactic), 2007 Pencil on paper, coloured paper, 48.8×34.5 cm

Exercise No. 2 (Poetry), 2007 Pencil on paper, coloured paper, 49.8×35 cm

Geld (Labor), 2023 Pencil on paper, 29.8×21 cm

Quantifying Reputation and Success in Art (Gallery), 2023 Pencil on paper, 29.8×21 cm

Credits: Galerie Kirchgasse, photo Cedric Mussano





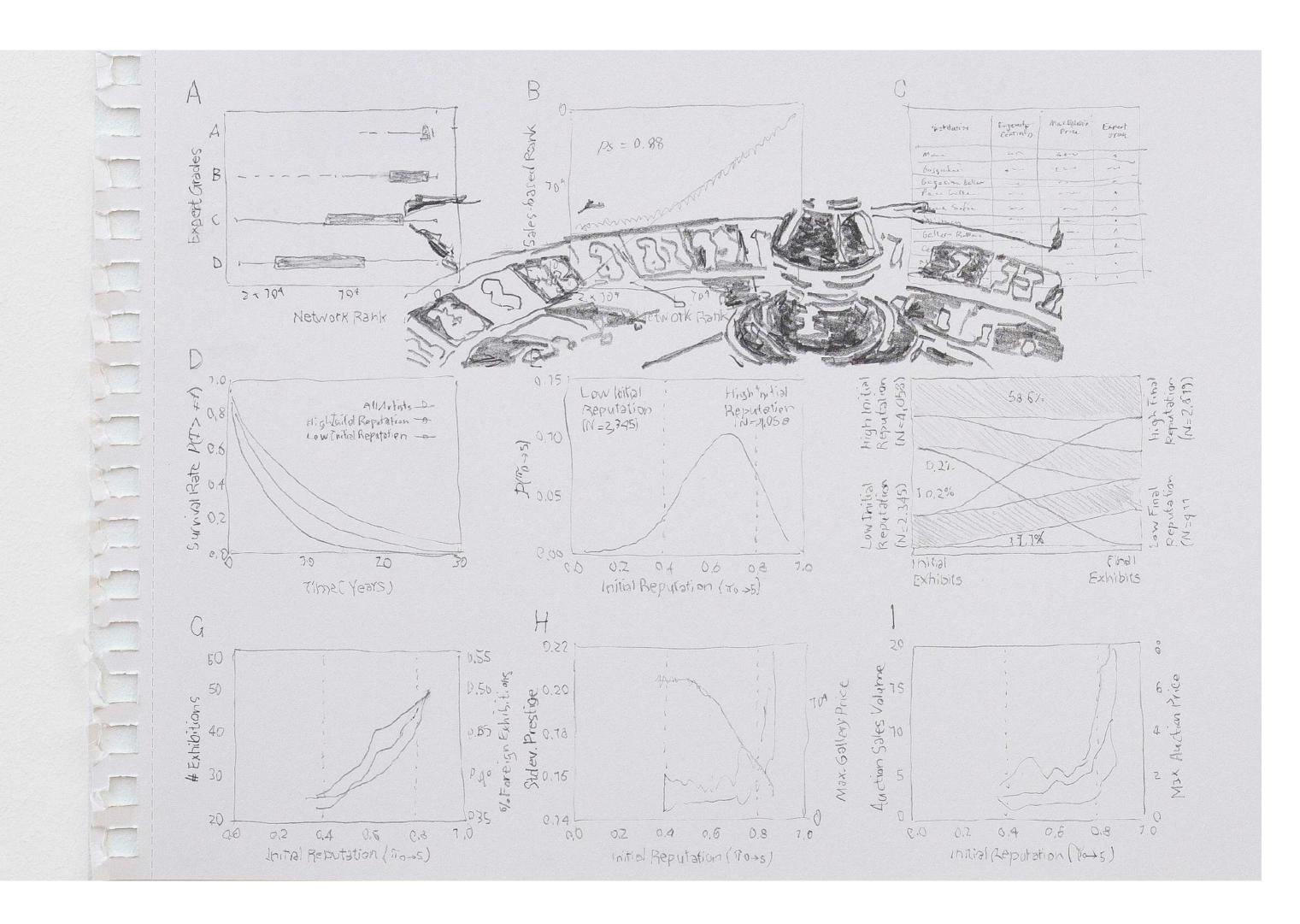
"In areas of human activity where performance is difficult to quantify in an objective fashion, reputation and networks of influence play a key role in determining access to resources and rewards. To understand the role of these factors, Fraiberger et al. reconstructed the exhibition history of half a million artists, mapping out the coexhibition network that captures the movement of art between institutions. Early access to prestigious central institutions offered life-long access to high-prestige venues and reduced dropout rate. By contrast, starting at the network periphery resulted in a high dropout rate, limiting access to central institutions." 1

In the exhibition *Didactic Poetry*, participating artists are invited to present four drawings on their personal understandings of pedagogy, labor, poetry, and gallery. The drawing *Quantifying Reputation and Success in Art* presents an insight into the word "gallery", where models illustrated in the homonymous paper are reproduced. The graphics track and predict the career trajectory of individual artists, highlighting the history dependence of valuation in art relative to a network of galleries and institutions.

The drawing *Geld* ("money" in German) underlines the economical denotation of the word. In a market economy, labor is typically exchanged for wages or salaries and constitutes the monetary compensation for workers' time and effort. For many creatives, labor compensation from other professional activities represents a way to further sustain the costs of art making.

The drawing *Exercise N. 1* presents a retrospective look at the field of pedagogy and the possible correlations to future artistic developments. Made in the early years of secondary education, the drawing is the result of a school assignment which contains the potential to inform future works.

*Exercise N. 2* is part of the same educational practice. Also made in 2007, it can be intended as a subliminal exercise of early identification, where the time lapse both determines the distance from an early artistic persona and possible aesthetic developments over time.





# THE LAST STRAW

June 13, 2023 Borgenheim Rosenhoff, Basel, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Xenia Bond, Lotte Lovise Brondbo, Mathieu Dafflon, Gabriel Friend, Gilles Jacot, Bjarne Melgaard, Hallvard Nuland, Julia Nusser, Kristian Suvatne

Not yet titled, 2023 Magazine crops, printed paper, tape 26×21 cm

The Makers Are Coming, 2023 Magazine crops, Polaroids, tape 26×21 cm

Not yet titled, 2023 Magazine crops, Polaroids, printed paper, tape 26×21 cm

Not yet titled, 2023 Magazine crops, Polaroids, tape 26×21 cm























# DIEMACHER KOMMEN.



	8	1/47	
		=	
		Keep you	ır head
		in the c	cloud
		Adaptation is the law  Web 3.0 is bringing disrup  possibilities. Are you rea	otion and endless ady to embrace
	*	continuous inno Discover what you o the law of tomorrow, toda	can do with
	Business Disp Real Estate C	outes Innovation Private ionsultancy Services	Mishcon de Reya Ut's business. But it's p

### **PRESENTS**

December 10 - 11, 2022 Sihl Delta, Zürich, CH

Works by Yumna Al-Arashi, Cristian Andersen, Virginia Ariu, Beni Bischof, Michael Bodenmann, Anja Braun, Selina Baumann, Patrick Cipriani, Céline Ducrot, Ramon Feller, Corinne Futterlieb, Yann Gross, Alex Hanimann, Christian Hörler, Tobias Kaspar, Pierre Kellenberger, Noha Mokthar, Reto Müller, Barbara Signer, Jules Spinatsch, Adam Thompson, Dorian Sari, Valentina Stieger, Lucas Uhlmann



Untitled, 2022 Magazine crops, Polaroid crop, glue 26×21 cm



# WÄRE ICH FEUER, WÜRDE ICH DIE WELT WEGBRENNEN July 8 – August 14, 2022 BINZ39, Zürich, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Selina Lutz, Georges Rey, Simeon Sigg, Arnaud Wohlhauser Curated by Julia Künzi and Chantal Kaufmann

Untitled (Contingency), 2019-2022 Magazine crops, cigarette package, tape for paper, framed 7×5 cm

### **FOURTH WALL**

June 5 – July 16, 2022 Hamlet, Zürich, CH

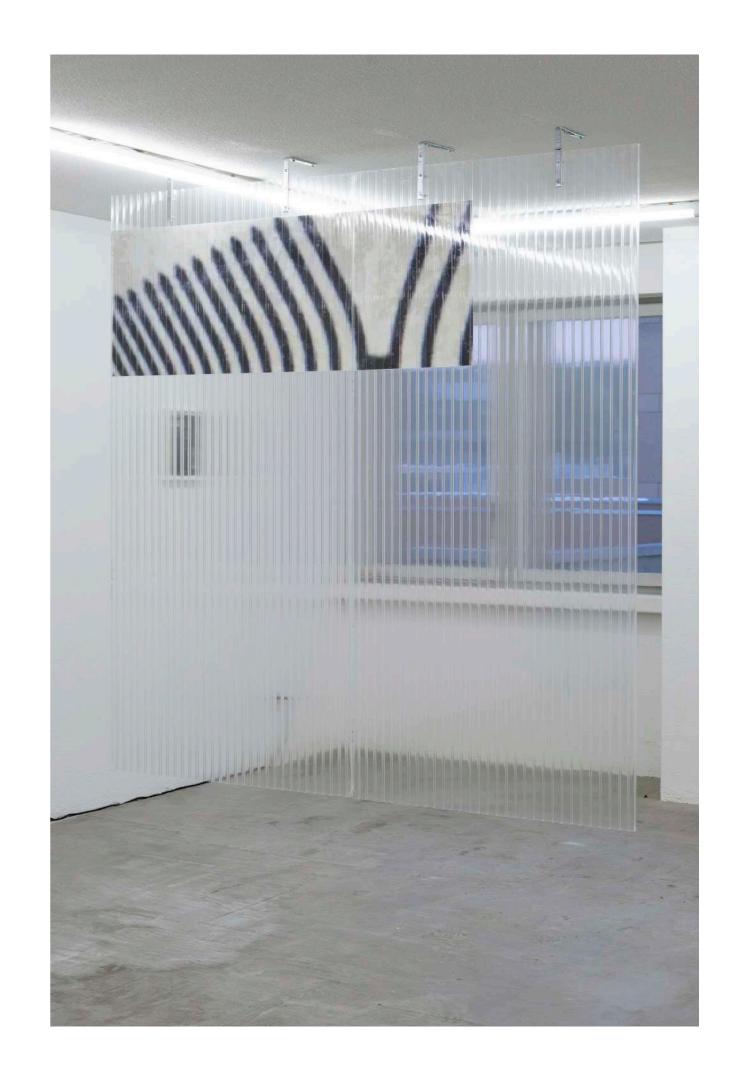
Works by Virginia Ariu, Milena Langer, Sara Ursina Sjölin

Curated by Julia Hegi and Antonia Rebekka Truninger

Correspondence, 2022
Acrylic glass, paper, resin, brackets
207 × 197 × 18 cm

Osmose Production 1.5, 2019
Newspaper crops, glue
26 × 21 cm

Capital City, 2022
Acrylic glass, paper, resin, brackets
200 × 102 × 13 cm







Abstraction, transparency, simultaneity, and symbolization are means of expression which appear both at the dawn of art and today.

Sigfried Giedion

In the architecture analysis published in *The Transparent State* by Deborah Ascher Barnstone, she examines the see-through glass structures whose visual accessibility could be understood as an analogy for openness, accessibility and egalitarianism. 1 In specific, structures employed in modern constructions that serve economic, legislative or civic functions, and that similarly outline corporate buildings: an aesthetic of lightness that supports abstraction in modernism, in tune with the abstraction of cybernetic spaces and financial systems. 2

Transparency in architecture was originally used to dematerialize the traditional wall so to reveal the structure, making it more comprehensible. It would later become increasingly associated with ideological values and employed in governmental buildings so to evoke an idealistic openness that transcends the material world and embraces symbolism. In another book, *The Art-Architecture Complex*, critic and historian Hal Foster comments on such examples: the renovation of the German Parliament in Berlin, the Reichstag. 3 Other uses of architecture to develop institutional images are found in the Bordeaux Law Court and the Singapore Supreme Court, as to suggest the accessibility of judicial systems, or to express the transparency and accessibility of democratic processes, such as in London's City Hall or the National Assembly of Wales. Other associations of transparency with the political or administrative workings of the client—though, these types of workings can be opaque at times— are found in the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, followed by the Commerzbank in Frankfurt and the Swiss Re as successive elaborations. 4

The works shown at Sihl Delta and Hamlet take into consideration possible functions and symbolic attributes of transparency and convey these aspects through sculptural solutions: translucent elements are envisioned as architectural components (doors and room dividers), where images applied with transparent resin intersperse in their configurations. As a result, the structures' translucency blurs the vision, making a full visual experience challenging for the viewer, who is induced to walk through the space and whose voyeuristic gaze becomes indistinct. Translucency thus becomes an agent that softens the boundary between interior and exterior, a liminal space that is explored in material, symbolic and ontological perspectives.



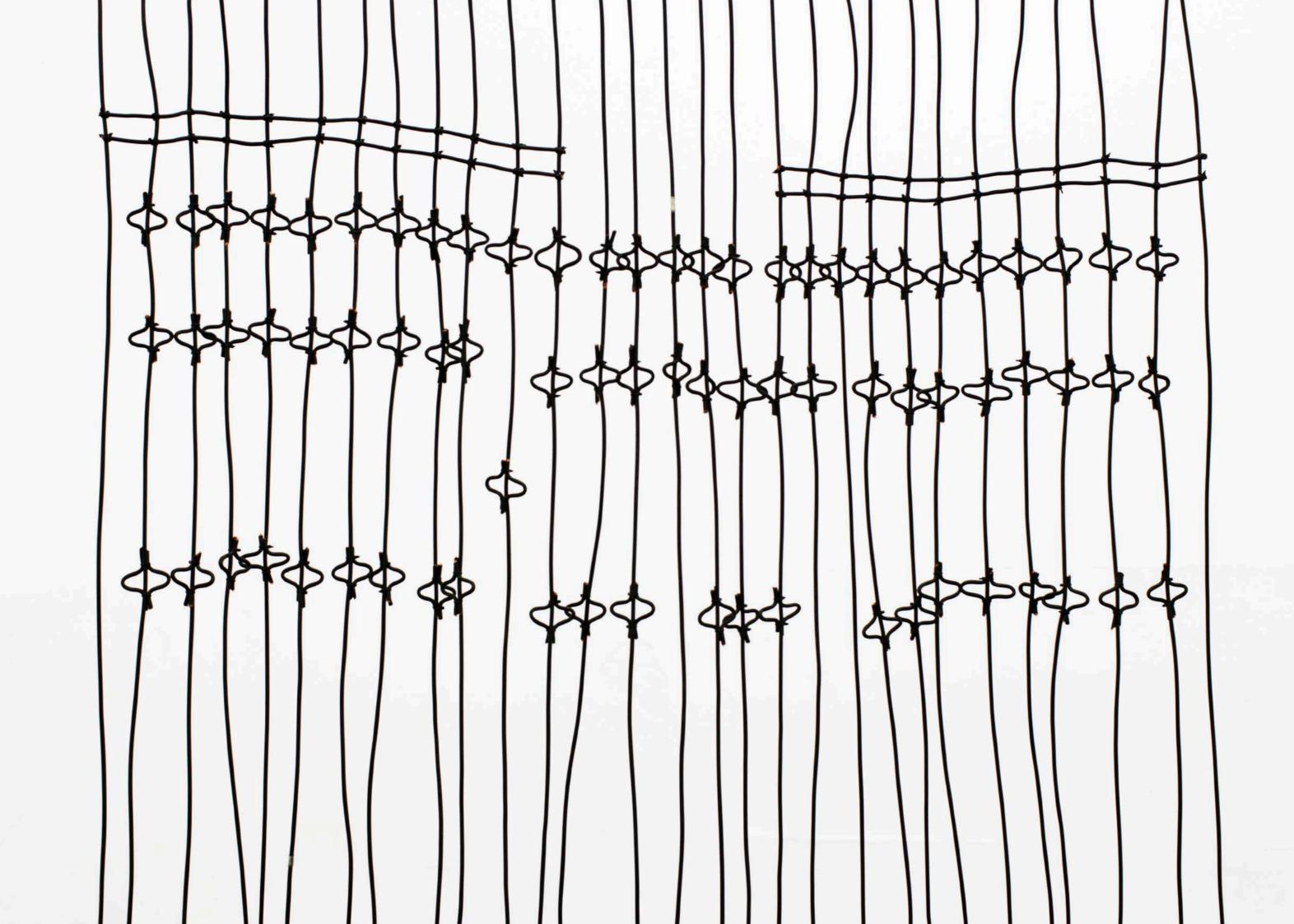
ON SECRECY AND SECRET SOCIETIES  January 22 – March 20, 2022	
Solutions, Milan, IT	
Works by Virginia Ariu, Anna-Sophie Berger, Gilles Jacot, Margherita Raso, Mia Sanchez	
	\$
	\$
Threshold, 2018 Cables, zip ties	

Threshold, 2018
Cables, zip ties
290 × 150 × 20 cm

Fence (2017), Gate (2018), Threshold (2018) and Angular combination (rail) (2018) are big sculptural reproductions of portals and enclosures made with electrical leftovers. The series, started in 2017, was made to be physically experienced by being seen through, pushing the viewer into ambivalent positions.

Cables enable connection, transmission. Their presence ranges from our everyday domestic spaces to surfacing electrical infrastructures in industrial sites, development areas or across oceans, allowing data transmission across distant geographical regions. Conversely, fences and portals are images of both access and division. Displaced and decontextualised, these enclosing structures no longer hold the authority of an image of division, but reveal instead their weakness in the use of feeble materials, getting rendered as inert aesthetic objects. Once the materials are assembled, the visual outcome recalls of the act of drawing, where representation becomes elusive and uncontrollable, defying intentional design.

Tracing the backdrop of recent political developments, the series subtly alludes to unsettling scenarios of increasing sentiments of exclusivity, drawing historical parallels to transitions marked by the privatisation of common lands. (*Against the Grain*, James C. Scott).



### **EXCUSE ME THE MESS**

Sept. 18 – Oct. 30, 2021 Sihl Delta, Zürich, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Shelly Nadashi and Antek Walczak

Curated by Nadja Schmid

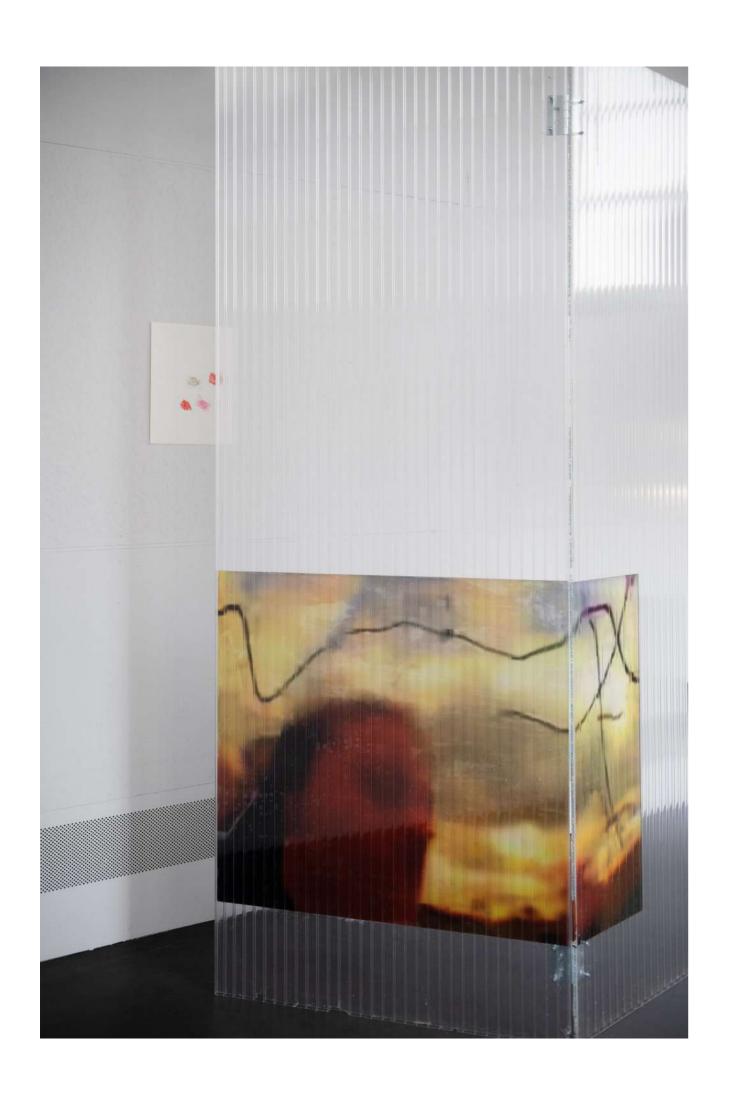


Excuse me the mess, 2021

Plexiglass, inkjet prints, resin, frottage drawing, newspaper crops 50 × 150 cm and variable extension

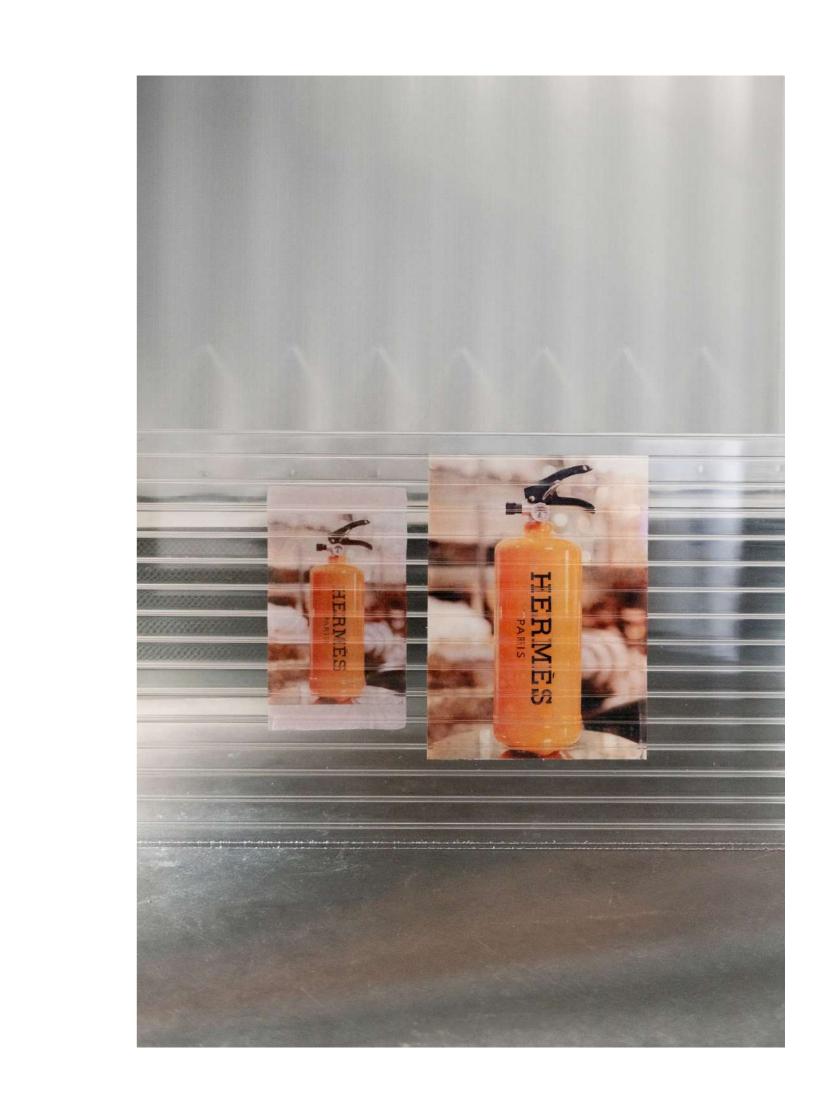
Plexiglass, inkjet prints, resin, frottage drawing, newspaper crops  $250 \times 300 \text{ cm} \times 70 \text{ cm}$ 

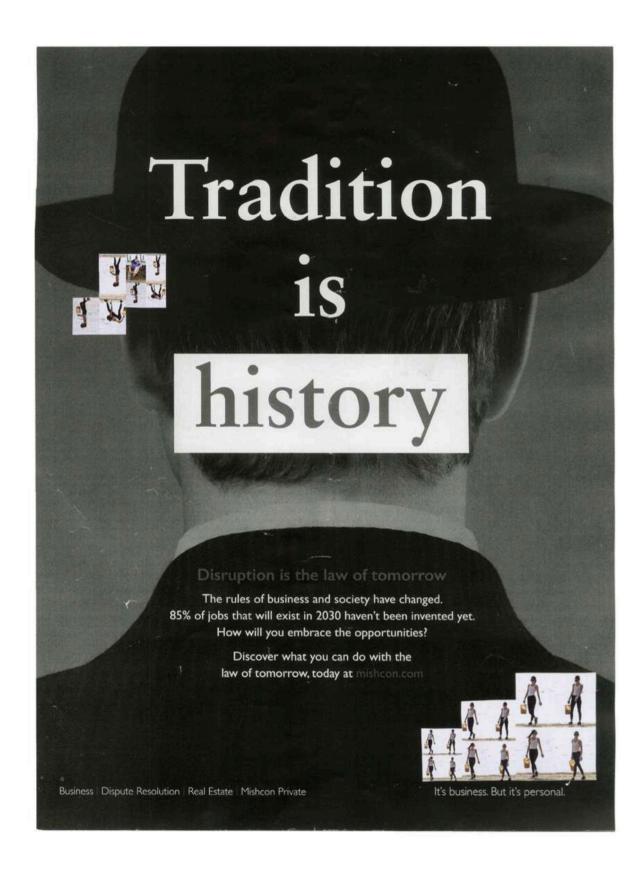










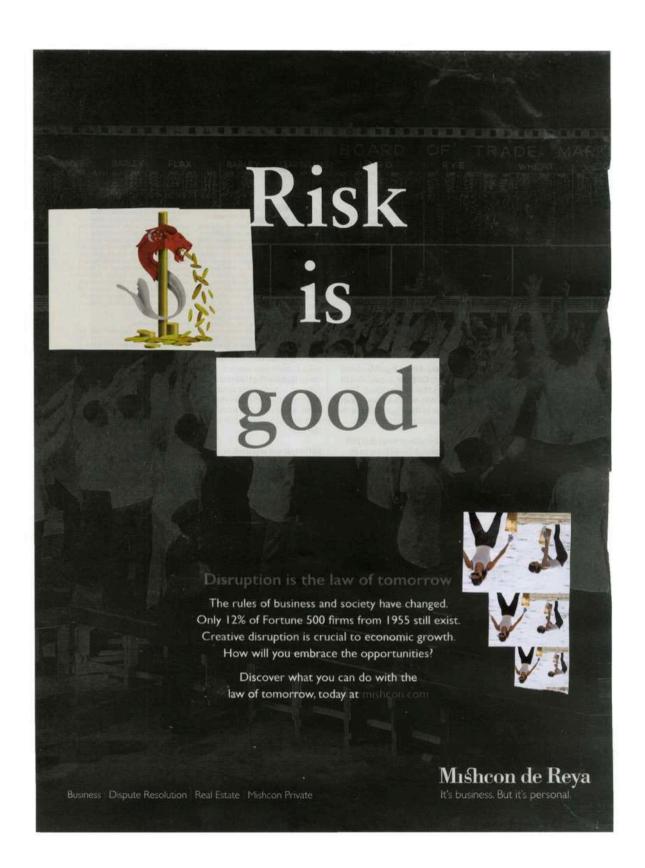


Virginia Ariu Wheels: taste of echoes (2018–2021)

Virginia Ariu

The darts: before, almost, never (2018-2021)

trans magazin 39





## n/a/s/l

Praga 35, Mexico City, MX February 27th — April 20, 2021

Works by Virginia Ariu, Rocio Boliver, Olga Cerkasova, Nico Colón, Natacha Donzé, Tracey Emin, Motoko Ishibashi, Karla Kaplun, Lourdes Martínez, Mario Miron, Raquel Olmos, Federico Schott, Reina Sugihara, Teorias Dinamita, Gillian Wearing, Urban Zellweger

Osmose Production 1, 2019 Newspaper, ink-jet prints 23,5×18 cm

Osmose Production 2, 2019
Newspaper, ink-jet prints
23,5×18 cm

Osmose Production 4, 2019 Newspaper, ink-jet prints 43×27 cm

Osmose Production 3, 2019
Newspaper, ink-jet prints
23,5×18 cm



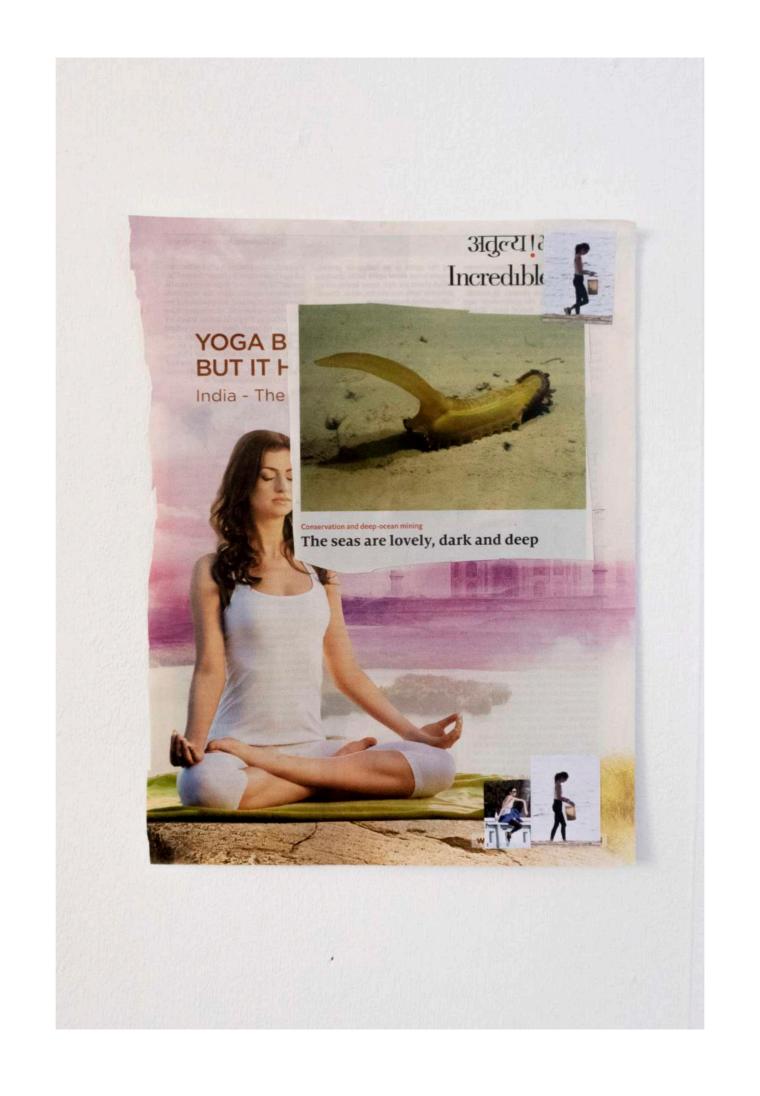












### THE BRINK

September 19 - October 27, 2020 Almanac, Turin, IT

In the show *The Brink*, modern still lives are alternated with views of public spaces, architectural elements and interiors. The images, often filtered through windows, mirrored on screens or blocked by gates or fences, reveal their ambiguity to the viewer's gaze, whose presence is reflected on the surface of some of the photos. This technique of reproduction, reminiscent of the first practical photographic process, the daguerrotype, it's a digital adaptation of its precursor.

The act of looking, captured in the images, initiates and directs recurring but estranged narratives that involve the viewer in the forms of individual and personal experiences, underlining topics of accessibility, proximity and positioning. Positioning, in the social psychology's definition of the term, as a mechanism through which roles are assigned or denied, either to oneself or others, and determine boundaries and interactions between individuals.

In the photos, the city and its architectures are seen from their delimiting functions and in relation to the human body, yet devoid of any human presence. Protective equipment, interiors details and silent urban views - configured as pictorial compositions - emphasise a subjective dimension. The collages, composed by packaging paper, fragments of dialogues and voyeuristic photos of unknown entities, punctuate the ambivalences of intimate and emotional spaces. As a visual journal that ranges its references from popular culture to childhood imageries and personal storylines, the works constellate the exhibition space, evoking a feeling of protection and isolation.

Text by Guido Santandrea

Clock with mirror, 2020, UV inkjet print on mirror dibond

40×17cm

Interno, 2020

Print on transparent plexiglass white layer applied 80×56cm

Capsule POV triptych, 2020

UV inkjet print on mirror dibond (x3) 25×18.5cm each

Mr. Salmonella, 2020

Wrapping paper for clothing items, printed book excerpt, found paparazzi snapshot, cut-out newspaper headline 71×103cm

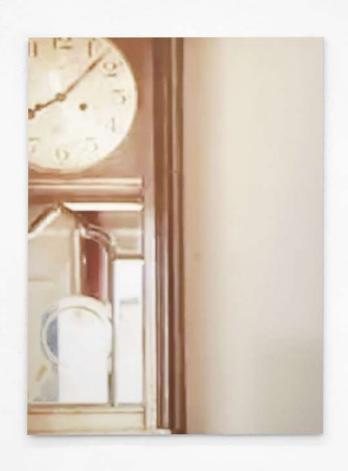
Seizure, 2020

Wrapping paper for clothing items, printed book excerpt, found paparazzi snapshot, cut-out newspaper headline 103×71cm

Tale of end. Pumpkin tin, plastic sword, lens, window, 2020

Inkjet print on paper 56×35cm



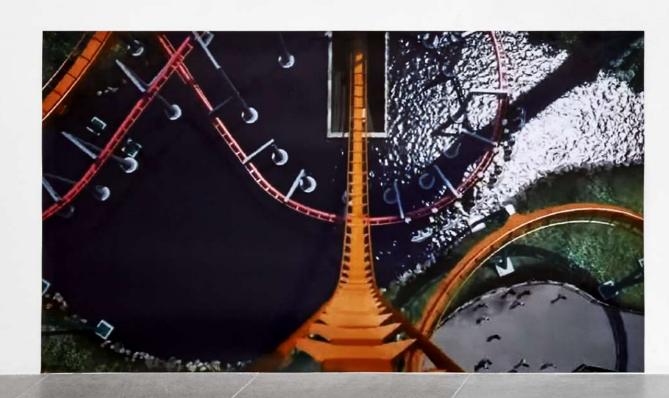




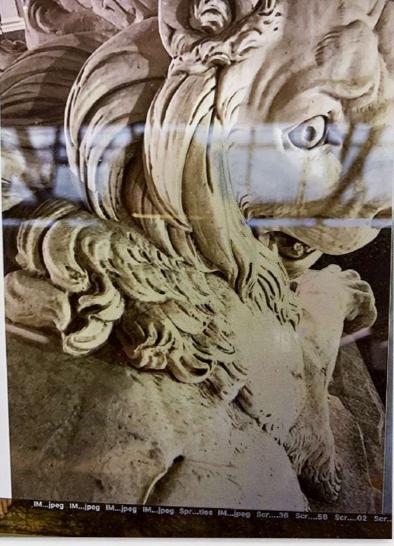


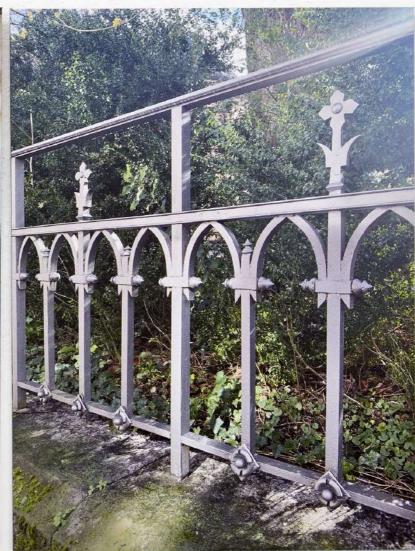


























## **MENTOR**

with Shirin Yousefi Jan 25 - Feb 10, 2019 Alienze, Lausanne, CH

## Untitled, 2019

Sound piece in multiple sections, each the vocal reproduction of a rhythm from a different part of the world

## Untitled, 2019

Sentences transferred on neon bulbs

### Untitled, 2019

Plastic stakes for plants, different lengths

## Untitled, 2019

Wall intervention with selfmade nootropics containing both natural and synthetic components, applied on wall

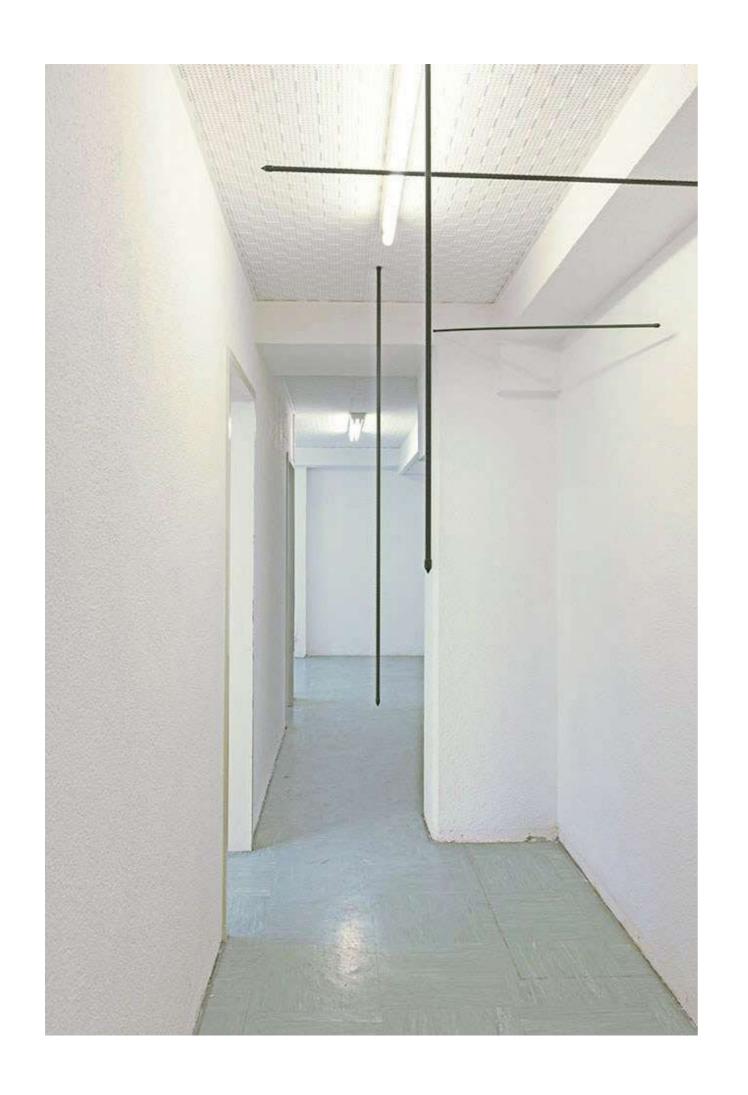
## Uninflatable, 2019

Glass baloon, variable dimensions













#### **INNER ELEGANCE**

July 12 – 29, 2018 No Conformism, Milan, IT

Disposable Ward (Tolerance) is a site-specific installation consisting of a columned line inflatable wrap for fragile items that hedges the perimeter of the exhibition space. In the fifties inventors Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes created an easy-to-wash three-dimensional plastic wallpaper. Finding little resonance as a home feature, this material would later be used as protective packaging product, for its capacity of providing optimal cushioning, as well as shock and vibration isolation for sensitive objects, such as glass and liquids. In the show the air wrap returns to its original function as a home feature, partly surrounding the exhibition space.

*Blow-up* is a series of eight xerox-matt prints on glossy red adhesive vinyl applied on aluminium sheets. This technique of reproduction, whose outcome is similar to the one of spray paint while recalling previous works on wall realised with the same technique (*Wing*, 2017), is employed in the creation of figurative photo-abstractions. Each aluminium plate features a close-up cut of found images of diamonds that finds its formal content in commercial photography for luxury items. Some of the images are intentionally distorted through a digital process that rips the image so as to create a concave-like surface on the flat support.

The display is a dialogue based on the affinities and divergences of the two installative elements, whose theme allegorically follows developments in domestic affairs in the place where the show was hosted, focusing on the notion of transparency as presumed political value and of shock as a moment of consolidation of meaning. (W. Benjamin)

Disposable Ward (tolerance), 2018 Inflatable air wrap bags 2500 × 50 × 2 cm

Blow-up, 2018
Printed adhesive vinyl on aluminium x8
100 × 55 cm each







## FORD EVERY STREAM

September 7 – October 13, 2019 Galleria Acappella, Naples, IT

Works by Magnus Andersen, Virginia Ariu, Stefania Batoeva, Anders Dickson, Yong Xiang Li, Felizitas Moroder

Curated by Antonia Lia Orsi

Angular combination (rail), 2018 Wires, zip ties  $300 \times 150 \times 50$  cm

**Divided loyalties**, 2018
Terracotta doorstop, stock of ads from magazine Variable dimensions









## **RESPONSE**

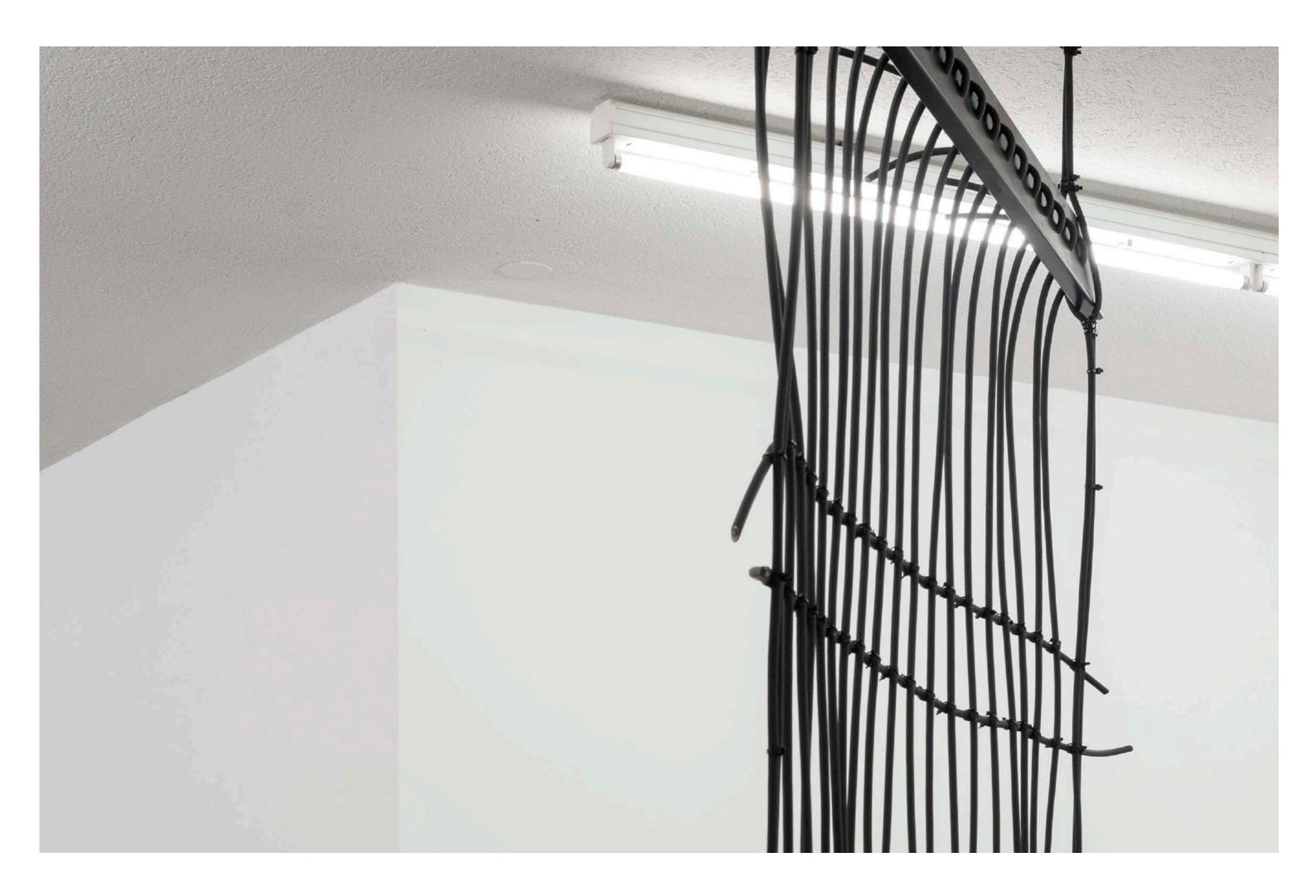
February 15 – March 31, 2018 Weiss Falk, Basel, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Henry Flynt, Georgia Sagri, Bea Schlingelhoff, Roger van Voorhees, Léo Bachiri Wadimoff, Staged Worlds

Curated by Emanuel Rossetti

Gate, 2018
Cables, zip ties and wood
295 × 140 × 50 cm





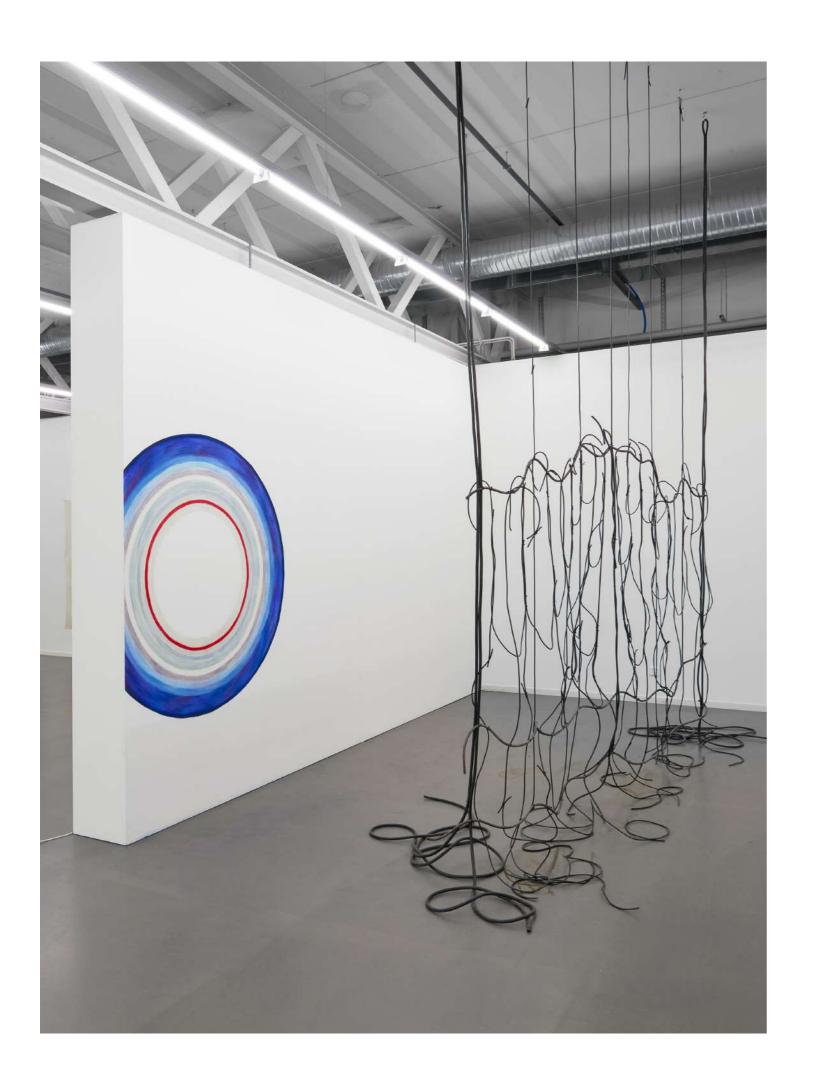
# HARSH HEAVENLY CONTACT, 2017

Graduation project
Installation view at Galerie l'elac, Renens, CH



Fence, 2017
Wires, zip ties, mixed water
500 cm x 220 cm





First semester presentation ECAL, Renens, CH

## Dead Body, Very Very Dead Body, 2017

Rubber gloves, silent valet. Variable dimensions

Fountain, 2017
Trash bin, photograph
Variable dimensions

Sleepers, 2017
Pair of standard slippers
Variable dimensions







