Gulp



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Press release

With: Zahrasadat Hakim, Juliette Lépineau, Phoebe-Lin Elnan, Cassiane Pfund, Jessy Razafimandimby, RM, Clara Roumégoux, Larissa Tiki Mbassi, Jacopo Valentini. Curated by: Clara Chavan & Katia Leonelli Opening: Saturday 11 November 2023 from 15:00-21:00 Opening times: Fridays and Saturdays 15-19:00 and by appointment: direzione@larada.ch

La Rada - space for contemporary art in Locarno is pleased to present *Gulp*, a group exhibition curated by Clara Chavan and Katia Leonelli.

The exhibition *Gulp* takes as its starting point the various events that lead to, or can result in, the act of swallowing. Be it a mouthful, a sip or a gag reflex.

Clara Chavan and Katia Leonelli have invited **Zahrasadat Hakim, Phoebe-Lin Elnan, RM, Clara Roumégoux** and **Jacopo Valentini** to interpret this *gulp* and its implications. Their proposals bring the audience from the Via Emilia to the Pacha Ibiza Club, after a walk around strangely displayed elements from the domestic and professional culinary worlds and the remains of a *cake-adjacent performance*. Each artist in their own way seized on this onomatopoeia to develop a critique of the present time.

Writers **Cassiane Pfund** and **Larissa Tiki Mbassi** have been invited to come up with textual works that unfold in the pages of the publication **Buffet Maisonné**. Along with the questions of the artists exhibited into the space of La Rada, they develop a sensitive discourse, written with two or four hands, exploring the spectrum between theory and poetry.

Illustrations by **Juliette Lépineau** and **Jessy Razafimandimby** accompany these reflections and establish a link not only with the works on display, but also with the Locarno region. Having also taken on the artistic direction of **Buffet Maisonné**, they have produced a RISO-printed edition of 120 copies, which will hopefully keep many mouths watering long after December 17, 2023.

Kitchen, meal, grub, schluck, yum yum, gastronomy, stamm — both the contents of plates and glasses and all that surrounds them — are media for exchange, pretexts for creating and maintaining relationships, for fighting against anomie. Understanding and observing the phenomenology of a mouthful may provide us with the answers we need to take care of each other.

The exhibition is part of "*Un nuovo crepuscolo*", the exhibition programme of La Rada-Space for Contemporary Art 2023.