

# Acts of Friendship

An exhibition conceived collaboratively by the museum team with works from the collection of the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst

Act 3 – June 10 to September 17 2023

With works from the collection by Judith Bernstein, Alighiero Boetti, Annika Eriksson, Alicia Framis, Gabriela Fridrikzdóttir, Jan Peter Hammer, Lang / Baumann, Teresa Margolles, Bernhard Martin, Juan Muñoz and Rirkrit Tiravanija

These days, we often associate friendship with the notion of a bond based on mutual trust that supports us, not least in times of crisis. Yet friendships are also complex, contradictory structures that cannot be framed within normative categories and that may indeed be subversive in character. Thus, friendships are not only able to support us as individuals in how we behave towards the world around us; they can also be a pathway towards making ourselves heard as a group and thereby rebelling against social (power) structures. In *Acts of Friendship* the concern is not primarily with caring friendships linked to our inner circle, rather with alliances and the value systems that go along with that, reaching far into the sphere of the social and the political—it's about complicity, alliances and solidarity.

The team at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst have selected for the *Acts of Friendship* exhibition works from the collection that in their view represent a particular aspect of friendship. The works, around 30 in all, are shown over a period of eight months and are divided into three theme-based groups of works – three acts. In the third and final act, works are presented that chafe at the concept of friendship: while certain works create new connections or question existing ones, in the case of others it's about the absence of friendship, about loneliness and ruptures. Moreover, in several works, questions are raised about the importance and harnessing of friendly relations on a personal, social and inter-state level.

In addition, as part of *Acts of Friendship – Act 3*, a new work was created that represents a snapshot of the museum and its team. The video titled *Staff at Migros Museum* by Annika Eriksson belongs to a series of filmic portraits of various art institutions, which the artist had begun in 2000. The work is presented here for the first time and will be added to the collection afterwards. The team, which is already visible in *Acts of Friendship* in the selection of works, itself appears before the camera in Eriksson's work and is thus present in the exhibition room, too.

Although the works selected for the exhibition represent the personal ideas, views and approaches to friendship of the individual team members, they also serve as a starting point for questions related to this theme, which is as complex as the approaches themselves. It is no coincidence that some of the works shown come from a time in which art, daily life and social practice flowed one into the other; examples of this in Act 3 are the works by Rirkrit Tiravanija and Alicia Framis. This art movement from the 1990s, known as *Relational Aesthetics*, is based on relations and actions between people. It not only shaped the beginnings of our museum, leaving traces behind in the collection, it also gives us the opportunity today to link up with old and new friendship networks and involve local communities. As an act of friendship towards our visitors, entrance is free to all our visitors for the duration of this exhibition.

The following have collaborated on this exhibition:

Nadja Aebi  
Tasnim Baghdadi  
Magdalena Baranya  
Søren Berner  
Franziska Bigger  
Michael Birchall  
Nemo Bleuer  
Fabi Bodmer  
Markus Bösch  
Gabi Deutsch  
Nicolas Duc  
Christian Eberhard  
Marius Eckert  
Yuko Edelmann  
Nina Emge  
Jordis Fellmann  
Cynthia Gavranic  
Muriel Gutherz  
Roman Gysin  
Lucas Hagin  
Gregory Tara Hari  
Lea Heer  
Claudia Heim  
Viktor Hömpler  
Linda Hügel  
Sônia Kewan  
David Knuckey  
Steffen Kuhn  
Elio Lüthi  
Lucia Maetzke  
Konstantinos Manolakis  
Maui Masera  
Len Mettler  
Marcel Meury  
Emmanuel Michaud  
Christa Michel  
Heike Munder  
Wanda Nay  
Julia Nusser  
Grace Oberholzer  
Seraphin Reich  
Catherine Reymond  
Simon Rickli  
Tanny Roščić  
My Thanh Truong  
Johanna Schmitt  
Nadia Schneider Willen



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of the Migros Group:  
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Monika Schori  
Linda Semadeni  
Joel Spiegelberg  
Katharina Stadlin  
Monika Stalder  
Raphael Stucky  
Flavia Trachsler  
Oliver Wahmann  
Wink Witholt  
Kerstin Wittenberg  
Stefanie Wolf  
Sabina Zweil

### **Public Guided Tour (German / English)**

Every first Saturday from 3 pm and every second and third Thursday from 6.30 pm each month, the museum offers public tours (1 hour) of the exhibitions *Acts of Friendship* and *Pilvi Takala – Close Watch*, which provide an in-depth look at the themes and backgrounds of the two exhibitions .

The tours are free of charge and without registration.

Next Dates on [migrosmuseum.ch/agenda](http://migrosmuseum.ch/agenda)

### **Family Afternoon (German)**

The Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst opens its doors especially for families on Sunday, June 11, from 2 – 5 pm, in the Atelier in the basement.

With Cynthia Gavranic and Len Mettler (art educators)

Children only accompanied by adults, ideal age: 3 – 12 years old

### **Art Detectives (German)**

Our clever exhibition riddles on the theme of friendship in the exhibitions are once again available for little detectives to pick up at the reception!

- Available from Friday, June 23
- Free offer
- 12 backpacks with equipment at the front desk (not reservable)
- Ideal age: 8 – 12 years  
(with the help of adults also suitable for younger children)

### **Art Friday (German / English)**

Once a month on Fridays (3 – 6 pm), people with and without refugee experience meet alternately at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst and in the Duttweiler meeting room for joint creation and an inspiring exchange. Do you also want to get creative and join in?

Forthcoming dates: 23.6., 29.9., 20.10., 17.11.2023

More information: [www.migrosmuseum.ch](http://www.migrosmuseum.ch)

Info / Agenda:



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