



Installation

Opening Thursday, 25 April 2024, 6 PM
Exhibition until 2 June 2024
City SALTS, Hauptstrasse 12, 4127 Birsfelden/Basel

Virginie Sistek – L'Envie de Plaire

Curated by Mario Kreuzberg
Presented in collaboration with the Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW

Virginie Sistek (*1999 Geneva) mixes biography with fantasy by devising strategies to bend reality. With an humorous and empathetic eye, she immerses herself in stories that are too convoluted to be true and shamelessly proposes their alternatives. Subversive yet captivating, she delivers them through unpredictable mediums such as installations, videos, sculptures, and texts.

For her collaboration with Mario Kreuzberg in the water tank at City SALTS in Birsfelden, she presents a new installation based on fallen figures, lost causes and those on the brink of collapse.

The Helvetia laudation to the artist reads as follows: «Based on specific situations, her installations, performances and videos address the question of what creates consensus or disagreement between individuals. She is interested in forms of subjugation and their self-legitimation over time and explores ways of resisting these automatisms.»

Virginie Sistek (*1999) earned her BA in Fine Arts from ECAL Lausanne and completed her Master's program at the Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW. Solo shows with Sophie Jung at the Provence Magazine Pavilion, Zurich (2023), at Lokal-Int, Biel (2022), or at Plattform24, Kunsthalle Appenzell (2024).

The exhibition is kindly supported by the Abteilung Kulturförderung Kanton Baselland.

L'Envie de Plaire

i asked Virginie if she considered herself vain
she said yeah sometimes i do.
i only asked her that because I was feeling pretty that day.
with vanity gentle on my mind.
i said "i want to be beautiful as can be."
"yeah. you're on fleek"
she replied.
i told her my deepest desire was to be seen in good lighting.
"good lighting as in a perpetual back&forth between the self and its environment, and like a
perpetual influence on both sides?"
mind blown.
so i deflected
idk
i was thinking more as in
literally bulb light.
projectors
neon
LED.
fireflies.
flames from a fire
sunlight
moonlight
stars
light years away
lava lamps
mythical or real
whatever the source
as long as it reaches us in a favourable way

Maria Esteves

Virginie Sistek (*1999, Lausanne/Basel)

Virginie Sistek (*1999 Geneva/ Lausanne,Basel)

Education

2017-2018 Propaedeutic diploma, ECAL, Renens
2018-2021 BA Fine Arts, ECAL, Renens
2021-2023 MA Institute Art Nature Gender FHNW, Basel

Solo Shows

2023 with Sophie Jung, Provence Magazine Pavilion, Zürich
2023 Pâtis Tidiness, Egg Space, Zurich
2022 Pierre qui maousse, Lokal-In, Biel/Bienne proposed by Paolo Baggi
2022 A040404, with Nicolas Ponce, La Placette, Lausanne

Selected Group Shows

2024 Plattform, Kunsthalle Appenzell, Appenzell
2023 La Regionale, Julia Armutt, Kunsthalle Mulhouse, Mulhouse FR
2023 El Gran Grito, Grad. Show IAGN, Kunsthaus Baselland cur. by El Palomar & Chuz Martinez
2023 As I was moving ahead, Basecamp PopUp, Locarno Film Festival cur. by Justine Knuchel
2023 Feed Filler, Ecal Alumni ArtGenève Booth curated by Miriam Laura Leonardi
2022 Imaginaires Vibrants, Espace Arlaud, Lausanne. Cur. by Antoine Felix Bürcher, Visarte
Corona Call guest with Nicolas Ponce
2022 Etat des Lieux, with La Placette, Maison Godard, Lausanne
2022 Prison Break, Hurze Geggi, Winterthur
2022 Parano Poésie, Forde, Genève

Awards

2024 Helvetia Art Prize
2021 Visarte Vaud for Bienpeureuse, ECAL Diploma
2021 Fondation Ernst Manganel for Bienpeureuse, ECAL Diploma

Performances/Readings

2023 Priscilla Predator, da rifiuto cosmico a icona planetaria with Paul Fritz, broadcasted on ReteDue. Invited by Justine Stella Knuchel
2023 Schlafen ist individuelle Anarchie, Performance Days, Baccio, Bern 11.2022 Resurrection Ranch, Backslash Festival, Gessnerallee, Zurich
2022 Women's Land, published on Brand New Life, recorded reading, text by F. Flamant for «Les vie Génétiques d'Eden Martin»
2022 Un Choeur Transi, Radio TRNSTN Live reading, Soap Opera in a Choir
2022 Reading text by Arianna Sforzini, Shelter_Refuge, Fri-Art Fribourg in support to Georgia Sagri's performance
2021 Bienpeureuse, ECAL Diploma
2020 Everyone else finds it so easy to express themselves, performance in ECAL

Curation

2023- ... La Placette, Lausanne
upcoming... Gorefolio Mag