



## SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN

15.03-14.04.2018

**Mariana HAHN**

**Tzuso**

**William WINTER**

curator **Gyusik LEE**

What constitutes dignity? In the midst of countless controversies, conflicts and never-ending news stories, in each moment we find ourselves facing choices, forced to make decisions. Truth appears to be collapsing as we lose our humanity. Society lives in overabundance while simultaneously lacking for everything, this contradiction causes hesitation when facing choices.

Even within these circumstances, we have the ability to live as independent thinkers due to our belief system. What do we see and what do we believe in? Belief does not answer all of our questions although belief can fill the space in which we seek answers. As humans, whatever our beliefs, the act of believing itself provides us with dignity. In this exhibition, each of the following artists, Mariana Hahn, Tzuso, and William Winter provide us with various perspectives on the topic of belief.

Through the use of sound, video, photos and objects, **Mariana Hahn** creates her own unique world within the installation *Nesthaut*. Each element in this world exists as a metaphor. Believing that a woven dress holds its own memory, Hahn captures the histories of these dresses through a process of preservation. In contrast, she presents small scraps of paper containing messages that slowly fade away. Though each separate moment possibly exists on its own forever, these written messages transform with the passage of time, changing just as our surroundings. Hahn's extended video presents changing sceneries including a sound of repeated brushing that resonates through the exhibition space, generating a ritual-like atmosphere that encourages visitors to pause for a moment in meditation.

*Pulp Nonfiction* by **Tzuso**, is reminiscent of a four-panel cartoon strip, presenting a dialogue between characters with monotonous lines and images. Tzuso uses broken German dialogue triggering the audience to wonder if the conversation actually occurred. The fragmentary dialogue can be either her story or the story of the audience. Do you believe that communication can happen only through language? Do grammatically perfect sentences enable complete communication? The dialogue between the characters, interpreted as that of your own or that of others is a satire of misunderstanding and violence caused by language and this form of communication.

*On Mount Olympus* by **William Winter** suggests a new form of role-playing in extended space, via the style of a role-playing video game. Audiences in Chroma key masks (the players), appear on the screen as having animal heads representing a sacrifice or as the heads of Greek gods carrying out missions, such as giving or

receiving gifts. In combination with traditional video game imagery, the players on the screen exist in an augmented reality. Missions are provided to the participants that are experiencing the extended space inside of the mask, absorbing the participants/players into their newly assigned roles. Though thoroughly engrossing the limited frame and view on the screen is designed to keep the players at a distance so they remain aware, conscious of real space and the subject of the action.

Each of these artists tell a special story about belief from their own perspective. In our cities we continue to lose bits of our humanity, hindering us from living our own authentic lives. In an effort to retain our humanity and independently believe in something we continue to move forward. Ultimately it is the individual that decides what to believe in. Now more than any other time in history we crave to believe. What do you believe in?

**Gyusik Lee** is a Korean-born curator and solo recipient of a one year, fully funded research grant awarded by the Daegu Foundation for Culture. His current work focuses on themes of “belief”, and the search for what is “real” or true within contemporary society as a result of independent thinking. Previously Lee has curated exhibitions such as *Sigma Problem = Hell Joseon* at the Seoul Art Foundation as well as *Me too*, 20<sup>th</sup> Hongdae Street Art in Seoul. Most recently he held the position of assistant curator for the exhibition *Station Paradox* at Momentum Berlin. Lee is studying for a Master degree in Art Management at Seoul National University, he has also received a Bachelor of Art Studies from Hongik University.

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**Mariana Hahn**

www.marianahahn.com

Born in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany

Lives and works in Berlin

Mariana Hahn's work poetically interrogates the concept of human fate, story telling and language through the use of photography, performance and video.

Believing that 'weaving' can be a metaphor for self-autonomy, her practice is based on thinking of the body as a bearer of continuously woven narratives and that the human being too takes part in making fate, making story, she understands making story as an active, conscious and physical act. She often uses textiles to take the place of the human body, the textile itself becoming the narrative of a living archive.

Hahn in her work creates her own narratives and one often finds oneself in a set of references that the artist creates herself, one could say that she creates her own myths within her own world, and yet this world of her own becomes accessible to the spectator and part of his or her own world. It acts as a reminder of the power that we as humans bear, that is to say, to create and make/weave story.

Her work feeds from sociological, mythological, folkloric and anthropological sources, as well as from experience of everyday life.

**EDUCATION**

2012 B.A of the Fine Art, Central St. Martins, London

2009 Diploma in Art and Design, Central St. Martins, London

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS** (selection from 2014)

2017 Redtory Museum of Contemporary Art, Guangzhou

*Milk for Snakes*, Der Raum, Berlin

*Night of Performance Art*, Kharkiv

*Flesh on Flesh*, Momentum Worldwide, Berlin

*Die Landschaft in uns*, Schlachthaus Fresh and Fine Art, Berlin

*Down to Earth*, Galeria Il Frantoio, Capalbio

*CORPO – Festival delle Arti Performative*, Venezia 10th - 14th May

*An Ocean Archive*, My Art Guide Venezia Meeting Point, Arsenale, Venezia

2016 *Me, Myself and I*, 68 Projects, Berlin

*October Salon*, Belgrade, curated by David Elliott Social Fabric, Mill6 Foundation, Hong Kong

*You Are What You Are*, Galleria Mario Iannelli, Rome

*Love, actually*, Momentum Worldwide, Berlin

2015 *VACANCY*, Crone Berlin, Berlin

*The ff at the Haus am Lützowplatz*, Berlin

Residency program, Mill6 Foundation, Hong Kong

2014 *Torso no Torso*, Moscow Biennale for Young Art, Moscow

**PERFORMANCES** (selection from 2015)

2017 *Milk for Snakes*, Der Raum, Berlin

*Zizurru*, Night of Performance Art, Kharkiv

2016 *Social Fabric*, Hong Kong, Mill6

AAA, HK, Art Basel HK, An Ocean Archive

2015 *Distant Letter Present Now*, Berlin Momentum Worldwide Performance Lecture, Hong Kong, Mill6

**COLLECTIONS**

MILL6 Foundation, Hong Kong, Momentum Worldwide, Berlin

## **Tzusoo**

Born 1992 in Seoul, South Korea

Lives and works in Stuttgart, Germany

Tzusoo is a contemporary multimedia artist who works with video, installation and performance. She lives and works in Stuttgart and Seoul. Tzusoo tries to liberate stuffs from their functional context, and apply other connotations and meaning to them. Using various media formats, the collaborative nature of her practice is paramount as each participant unwittingly contributes his or her own texture to the work. The images in her works often include sarcastic factors, addressing cultural constructions of power, identity, and sexuality.

## **EDUCATION**

2017 - Diploma Fine Art at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart, class of Prof. Christian Jankowski

2016 Studied Printmaking at Hongik University in Seoul, class of Prof. Seungyoen Kim  
Studied Art Studies at Hongik University in Seoul, with supervisor Prof. Sun Kyu Ha

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2018 *Cellular Ground*, Bunker unter dem Diakonissenplatz in Lange Nacht der Museen Programm, Stuttgart

2017 *The Great Infinite Fool*, Museum Folkwang, Essen  
*Klein Münster*, Bergstaffel, Stuttgart *Creation Island*, Bergstaffel, Stuttgart

2016 *Bachelor Degree Exhibition*, HoMA, Seoul

## **William WINTER**

www.williamerhardwinter.com

Born in Chicago, United States of America

Lives and works in Berlin

William Winter uses conceptual, spatial, and interdisciplinary approaches to explore conventions and rituals and to investigate the relationships between obsession, escapism, and alchemy. His work employs a variety of media including sculpture, video, painting, mold-making, installation and performance.

### **EDUCATION**

2010 Painting and Drawing, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

2008 Psychology and Art, Greenville College, Greenville

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2017 *OCDiva, A Collaborative Food Event with Li Zhenhua and April Gertler*,  
Big Whale Studios, Berlin

2014 *Kulturfestival Wedding and Moabit*, Berlin 2014 *Fraçment*, Berlin

2012 *Kenzo, Flower Tag Eau de Parfum New Fragrance Event*, Bloomingdales, Chicago

2010 *I'm There, A Birthday Celebration for the City of Chicago*, Chicago Art Department, Chicago

2007 *Concrete Etherealism, Reconstructive Portraiture*, Rowland Art Gallery, Greenville

2007 *Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual Collegiate Artists' Competition*, Koehline Museum of Art,  
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines

### **GRANTS, AWARDS, RESIDENCIES**

2017 *Tête*, Picture Berlin Artist Talk: *OCDiva* by William Erhard Winter, Berlin

2017 Picture Berlin Fall Session, Berlin

2014 Institut für Alles Mögliche Artist in Residence, Berlin

2010 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago Incentive Scholarship, Chicago

2007 Finalist and Honorable Mention in the Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual  
Collegiate Artists' Competition, Des Plaines

### **PRESS & PUBLICATION**

2012 Kenzo Flowertag Eau de Parfum Event Recap, CS Modern Luxury Magazine

2010 Hide and Seek Exhibition: Interview with the Artist, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago  
Magazine

2007 The 2007 Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual Collegiate Artists' Competition