



Wild - Transgender and the Communities of Desire
April 6 – June 18, 2017

Artists:

Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz, Zanele Muholi, Doireann O'Malley, Johannes Paul Raether, Chris E. Vargas

Wild – Transgender and the Communities of Desire is an international group exhibition that draws together recent artworks dealing with questions and challenges of transgender life and communities, which don't necessarily present an inquiry into the complexities of transgenderism, but rather use transgenderism as a perspective to frame and narrate current human (societal) conditions.

Inspired by scholar Jack Halberstam's concept of "wild," the exhibition looks at how gender complexities are forever challenging the binary mode of societal organization. The exhibition claims that these complexities should not be narrated as "problems" or "difficulties," but rather as a wild range of human possibilities. As Halberstam reminds us, the notion of wild—reclaimed from its colonial historical context—in relation to societal models offers "different narratives of what a life can be like in general." A powerful and potent critique can thus emerge from the margins of society, in this case through transgender voices, strategies, and perspectives. Many of the artworks in *Wild* restage the possibilities of envisioning a different future in the present and on the ruins of its impoverished political imagination.

Most of the works in *Wild – Transgender and the Communities of Desire* critique

heteronormative societal forces and at the same time clearly envision the potentials of other kinds of communities and intimacies that can provide a more enriching overall human journey, not just for people who are positioned on the margins of society.

The future communities imagined by the works included in Wild are based on friendship and mutual support, on shared desires and singularities, instead of competition, survival, and the collective forces of production.

Against the backdrop of societies in which sympathies toward right-wing sentiments are on the rise, we acknowledge the transgender movement as a new frontier in human rights discourse, the political potential of which is attested to by the exhibited artworks.

Doireann O'Malley was a recipient of the Media Art Grant from the Foundation of Lower Saxony at the Edith-Russ-Haus 2016.

Upper floor [\[+ map\]](#)

1

Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz

I want

2015

Installation, HD double projection, 16 min

Performer: Sharon Hayes

Pauline Boudry and **Renate Lorenz's** film installation *I Want* is based on a script that plagiarizes the texts of punk poet Kathy Acker as well as the words of whistleblower Chelsea Manning, who, while held in US Army custody, came out as a transwoman. In Boudry and Lorenz's work, Acker's poetic strategy of switching identities provokes a rereading of Manning's public disclosures. Manning's acts of exposing important sensitive military and diplomatic documents through Wikileaks and of revealing her transgender identity is enacted in the performance as a strong resistance against war and a transgression against the ways in which gender and sexuality are deployed in the service of the military.

2

Zanele Muholi

Faces and Phases

2006 - 2014

15 Silver gelatin prints, 86,5 x 60,5cm

In her photo series *Faces and Phases*, South African visual activist **Zanele Muholi** fights against a queer-phobic environment with the weapon of the portrait, utilized to create a history and memory of her queer communities, to document their daily struggle, and to invite the viewer into their intimate spaces. The series attempts to break with the ongoing mainstream representation of queer life as a state of victimhood, subjected to hate crimes. Instead of portraying violence, *Faces and Phases* shares everyday experiences of intimacy and love.

'TK' Thembi Khumalo, BB Section Umlazi township, Durban, 2012

Lerato Dumse, Syracuse, New York Upstate, 2015

Anele 'Anza' Khaba, KwaThema Community Hall, Springs, Johannesburg, 2011

Comfort Gwala, Chesterville, 2014

Lungile Cleo Dladla, KwaThema Community Hall, Springs, Johannesburg, 2011

Makho Ntuli, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2010

Miles Tanhira, Harare, Zimbabwe, 2011

Nokuthula Dhladhla, Berea, Johannesburg, 2007

Nontuthuzelo Mduba Daveyton Johannesburg, 2013

Refiloe Pitso Daveyton Johannesburg, 2014

Stesh Gonya Parktown Johannesburg, 2013

Tumi Nkopane, KwaThema, Johannesburg, 2013

Vuyelwa Makubetse, KwaThema Community Hall, Springs, Johannesburg, 2011

Xana Nyilenda Los Angeles, 2013

Xana Nyilenda, Newtown, Johannesburg, 2011

© Zanele Muholi. Courtesy of Stevenson, Cape Town/Johannesburg and Yancey Richardson, New York

Basement [\[+map\]](#)

3

Johannes Paul Raether

Transformellae

since 2009

Installation, mixed media

In **Johannes Paul Raether's** installation, a "psycho-realist" lifeline of characters *Transformella*, *Queen of Debris* and *Transformalor*, *Surrogate Mother of the Institute for Reproductive Futures* take residence at the Edith-Russ-Haus. The figures at the center of the installation are several of the multiple "AlterIdentities" that emerged from Raether's cyclical system of performances as embodiments, materializations, and visualizations of social paradoxes and catastrophic political

actualities. As “Research Avatars”, *Transformella/or* are dedicated to the assertion of the emancipatory potential of biomedical innovation in the field of assisted reproductive technologies.

4

Doireann O'Malley

Prototypes

2017

3 channel HD video installation, 35 min

English, German

With Pol Merchan, Nika Pecarina, Elena Schmidt and Ashley Hans Scheirl

Prototypes, a work newly commissioned by Edith-Russ-Haus grant holder **Doireann O'Malley**, aims to explore different experiences of gender transition through a pseudo-science fictional, dreamlike gaze.

Prototypes focuses on female to male gender transition and its intra-relational proximity to history, politics, bodies, objects, drives, and the virtual & actual symbolic, real and imaginary orders— both with and without the “boundaries” of the human.

The work is a result of this exploratory methodology which generated new forms of knowledge around the topics, drawing on a wide range of feminist perspectives within queer theory, psycho-analysis, quantum physics, genetics, cybernetics and systems biology.

The film was made with a collaborative methodology, involving many participants from research reading and writing sessions with the main protagonists, Jungian dream analysis sessions with the psycho-analyst Andrés Ocazionez, Social Dreaming workshops with gender psychiatrist Eva Sophie Philipps.

The collaborative process informed from techniques used by Deleuze and Guattari in group psycho-analytic formats, extended into all aspects of the film from research, reading sessions, to writing monologues which were written in workshops exploring trans subjectivity with and trans-discussion reflection with the protagonists and Stef Morgner and Henri Steegmann who are part of the project, who will be part of the second film in the series.

Credits:

Writer/ Director/ Producer : Doireann O'Malley

Production Assistant: Nossa Schafer
Dop: Albrecht Von Grünhagen
1st AC Matan Radan
1st AD & VFX supervisor: Bastian Hopfgarten
Set Assistant: Trixi Flo
Editing: Doireann O'Malley & Brody Condon
3D Animation: Brody Condon & Doireann O'Malley
3D Scanning: Olaf Blecker & Doireann O'Malley
Sound Composition: Armin Lorenz Gerold
Sound mixing/editing: Jochen Jezussek

Thank you:

Pol Merchan, Nika Pecarina, Ashley Hans Scheirl and Elena Schmidt, Stef Morgner & Henri Steegmann, without their participation and support, it wouldn't have been possible to make this film.

Antonio Ciutto, Billy Davis, Bastian Hopfgarten, Magnús Hallur Jónsson Rita Macedo, Gines Olivares, Ninon Liotet, Eva Sophie Philipps, Andreas Reihse, Nossa Schafer, Mathea Hoffman, Ryhannon Styles, Nika Fontaine, Albrecht Von Grünhagen, all of the silent supporters. My parents Anne O'Malley and Gerard O'Malley.

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Karen Barad, Jack Halberstam, Katherine Hayles, Donna Harraway, Paul B Preciado & Alan Turing.

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5

Chris E. Vargas

The Museum of Transgender History & Art

since 2013

Installation, mixed media

Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art

Transvestism in the News

2015

Newsprint broadside, 57,8 x 76,2cm

***Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art
Transgender Hiroes***

2013

Newsprint broadside, 83,8 x 68,6cm

***Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art
Executive Director address chapter 1***

2014

Video, 4.5 min

***Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art
Executive Director address chapter 2***

2014

Video, 4.5 min

***Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art
Executive Director address chapter 5***

2014

Video, 4 min

Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria

Directors: Susan Stryker, Victor Silverman, US 2005, 57 min

Documentary about transgender women and drag queens who fought police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco's Tenderloin district in 1966.

Chris E. Vargas's ongoing conceptual online project the *Museum of Transgender History and Art*, which was founded in 2013, is presented in the exhibition as a study-room, bringing into existence a cohesive visual history of transgender culture.

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