

## **ACCUMULATION / CONSIDERATION OF VALUES**

**Participants: Ursula Palla (Zürich, CH), Zsófia Szemző (Budapest ,HU), Szabolcs Süli-Zakar (Debrecen, HU), Mark Vennegoor (Amsterdam, NL)**

**Curator: Hanneke Frühauf**

In June 2017, Artists from Holland and Switzerland started in “Kunstraum Baden” (Switzerland) an international art project “Consideration of Values”, a project on tangible and intangible values. The idea is to invite artists to join an adventure trip in the world of art, a world without borders and where ID cards are not required. What is required is a genuine interest in searching for other perspectives and consideration of the world we’re living in and the will to exchange the experience with other artists.

The fundamental notion of value in art did not change despite the fast evolution of communication technology. Art’s capital is called meaning. It is the capacity of an artwork, or of an art process, or research to create meaning; and this meaning or novel manner of perceiving, reading and interpreting is an individual process worthwhile to be shared with others.

In our world everything is measured by monetary value, there is an overwhelming tendency to take money as an absolute benchmark to explain the functioning of the globalized world. But another trend is also visible. Sustainability, responsible handling of the environment, modern slavery and global trade are increasingly in focus of the discussions on social development and are addressed by visual artists, writers, and philosophers.

In this exhibition is the principle of collecting a common aspect of the presented artworks. Ursula Palla collects thoughts and words in books and the associated libraries. Mark Vennegoor collects driftwood on the Danube, Szabolcs Süli-Zakar accumulates unused objects that lost their function and Zsófia Szemző tries to capture light in a prism to focus on a moment that will provide us a short experience of the unbearable lightness of being. Our society is based on the enormous collection of lived life, memories and relicts from the past. Why do people collect things? May be one reason is to mark our estate, interest and passion.

We look forward with great curiosity to the second stop on our adventurous journey, hoping to share some meaningful conversations with the audience.

Hanneke Frühauf

Ursula Palla

Real and unreal is the topic that runs like a red thread through Ursula Palla’s oeuvre. Her work refers in a serious and certain poetic preoccupation to our reality, which is often hidden behind a fake surface.

Ursula Palla will show a video and audio installation called: „White books”. Books are falling from the ceiling to the ground and while falling, they lose their lyrics and stories. The entire content of the overturning writings is compressed into a tonal collage and can be heard as a fleeting, incomprehensible whisper. Books are an important part of our collective memory and a strong symbol for the past and the future. In this video Ursula Palla refers to the destruction of libraries, which results in a negative change of attitude towards knowledge and culture in the age of the so called “fake news“. In addition, the work refers to the endangered schools and educational centres worldwide –centres of knowledge, dialogue and exchange.

Her video installation Balance II illustrates a man in a suit balancing on a wire. The sequence is projected into a box that became the insignia of today's "hire-and-fire" management mentality and is addressing our daily balancing act in a complex globalized world.

More information on Ursula Pall and her work can be found on <http://ursulapalla.kleio.com>

### Mark Vennegoor

Mark Vennegoor is travelling from Switzerland to Budapest following the Inn and the Danube rivers to Budapest. During his trip, he will collect driftwood which will be used for building an installation in the 2b gallery.

He will also present imprints from the water springs created during his artist residency at NAIRS, a contemporary art centre in the Swiss mountains. These healing water springs played a vital role in the touristic and economic development of Engadin starting at the end of the 19th century. Since then, flourishing times did alternate with times of decline, which were often caused by external influence. One of them was the upcoming pharmacy industry, by which the magical effect of the healing sources lost their significance. Although the economic value of the healing sources is subject to cyclical fluctuations, the sources are constantly flowing. Inspired by this thought, Mark decided to make prints on table linen of hotels, resulting in a unique collection of prints and sculptures like "selfies" of the water sources and the river.

Besides this Mark Vennegoor will build a fountain referring to the Roman and Ottoman Empire's influence on the present Hungarian bathing culture. Nowadays these historically bath houses became an important touristic attraction.

Mark Vennegoor challenges structures in order to stimulate reflection on habits, normative behaviour and routines, with the intention to eventually explore alternatives. Through long-term projects like 'Smoothie Takeover', which he developed during an artist residency at the Bemis Centre of Contemporary Arts, he intervenes also outside the "white cube". In the project "Denim Economics" Mark tries to create a new economic theory repairing imbalances in current economic behaviour. Mark has an educational background in both International Business (Maastricht University) and Arts (Gerrit Rietveld Academy), and likes to mix these disciplines as well as to play with his ambiguity towards them.

See more on <http://www.markvennegoor.nl/>

### Zsófia Szemző

Zsófia Szemző presents her new work "Blinded by light". She accumulates faces on ink drawings and polaroid pictures, where light breaks through a prism into colour around the eyes of people. The question arises: Is the face enlightened or blinded by the light? She is questioning the origins of what and how we see, or look at things. In her latest video from the "Risk" video series, Szemző drifts in idyllic surroundings in shallow water on a self-made raft constructed from trash. In the video "Everything stays", a cake is reconstructed referring to sustainability.

Zsófia Szemző is living and working in Budapest and lived in Paris 2008-2012. She is investigating ways of storytelling, researching different ways of narration in human interaction.

About her exhibitions and work see <http://zsofiaszemzo.com/>

## Szabolcs Süli-Zakar

Szabolcs Süli Zakar's Photo series "Accumulation" shows several things grouped together or considered as a whole (geography, biology). Due to the multitude of the same or similar objects, the original meaning of certain objects is modified (art). Especially, if it was filled with personal content during its former usage. The rural-origin of the accumulated everyday objects is visible on the photo-series, which are excluded from everyday use, due to urbanisation, when the rural population moved to the city and left these belongings behind.

Szabolcs Süli-Zakar is living and working in Eger and Debrecen.

See <http://www.suli-zakar.com/> on his qualifications, exhibitions, works.

## Hanneke Frühauf, curator

1999 to 2007	board member of Res Artis, a worldwide artists in residency network
1992-2002	curator in the Foundation Binz39 (Zürich, CH)
2004	co-founder of Dutchartedesk.ch
2010	founder of the foundation Powerstation Art dedicated to an interdisciplinary project ( <a href="http://www.powerstationart.ch/">http://www.powerstationart.ch/</a> )

"Powerstation Art" is an interdisciplinary exchange project between Switzerland and the Netherlands, developing a platform for art actions and debates, emphasising culture and integration of children in our society. The participating children are from Dutch, Swiss, Macedonian, Turkish, Surinamese, Moroccan, Iraqi, Chinese, and Tibetan origin. Writers, architects, musicians and other creative persons accompany the children during their maturing process in the role of a "cultural godparent". Like the children, some of the artists have a non-western cultural background. Essential element of Powerstation Art is to show the children the importance of the use of one's own creativity in our complex society.

Since 2004 Hanneke Frühauf is also curator of Bridge Guard, an artist in residence located in Štúrovo, Slovakia (<http://www.bridgeguard.org/>).

She came up with the idea of the AquaPhone performance referring to the beginning of the nineteen fifties when people communicated over the Danube between Štúrovo (Slovakia) and Esztergom (Hungary). It is performed yearly in June since 2006.