

Lynne Kouassi

Portfolio 2017-2024

Lynne Kouassi's künstlerische Praxis setzt an der Schnittstelle zwischen Öffentlichem und Privatem, zwischen Beziehung und Politik, an. Dabei treffen visuell sanfte Kompositionen auf unbequeme Inhalte.

Teil dieser künstlerischen Praxis ist es auch Rahmenbedingungen zu schaffen, in denen es Raum für Subtiles gibt, der wiederum den Rezipierenden erlaubt die eigene Feinfühligkeit in ausgewählten Bereichen wie z.B. togetherness, (self-)care oder vulner-ability zu kultivieren.

Als Ausdruck einer Orientierung an Verbindendem und Geteiltem arbeitet Kouassi neben ihrer individuellen Praxis immer wieder in längeren Kollaborationen mit weiteren Kunstschaffenden.

AQUARIUM

In collaboration with Daniel Vollmond

seamless loops on three vertical screens, mounted on a tripod
with a 3D printed bracket made from recycled PETG, audio on
headphones, played from a nomadic archive stone by Valentin Egli
& Jonas Huldi, powered by an orange construction site cable

2024



AQUARIUM (Audio)

„We recently moved into a live-work studio. I’m afraid my work-life-balance won’t improve here, but still we are very happy about it. Because now we finally have a home that is not mouldy. AND the heating is working. Our new home costs 1’210 CHF per month, that is 200 CHF less than all the other cheap but bearable flats we could find. However, the reason for the low price is, that the space came without a kitchen and with a floor area of just 35 square meters. (Plus a small bathroom with a toilet, a shower cabin, a sink and a nice built-in cabinet.) One might think, that this isn’t a lot of space for two adults. But luckily, we are allowed to design, build and install a kitchen and a second floor to increase our comfort and the number of usable square meters. The only thing we need is time, motivation, creativity, know-how, energy, money, and some support. We do have motivation, creativity and quite a bit of know-how. I guess, that’s a start.

Our new home is part of a housing cooperative - which is cool. They created a solidarity fund that should balance out the different incomes of all neighbours. Members who earn more automatically pay into this fund so that other members with lower income can be supported financially. When we signed the contract we asked for support from this fund. We declared our full income and that we did not have a retirement arrangement, which we would like to organise rather sooner than later. But unfortunately, our request was rejected. We were told that they don’t understand why we earn so little, because we are both young and able to work. Yes, we do work full time - often even more than that. But artistic labour does not pay. Believe me: I also don’t know why. Despite being recognised as professional artists, we have to find other ways to earn extra money. But our additional jobs cost time and energy and also don’t bring in a fortune. Even worse: often we spend money we earn in other jobs to provide for art!

In her book Art Work Katja Praznik asks the question: „Who can afford the unpaid labour?“. But in our case the question rather is: „In what currency must we pay to be able to afford the unpaid labour?“ In safety, security, comfort, social visibility or health? Sometimes I do ask myself if I sacrificed my position as a desirable human being in Western society when I chose to become an artist. I mean think about it: artists continuously work for society by creating meaning and by asking the relevant questions. But only if their work can be turned into a product and only if it is sold as a commodity, then the artistic labour is profitable and accepted as real and human labour. This is the moment when society envies us for our so-called freedom. But until then, society perceives artists more as something like ornamental fish swimming in an aquarium: a debatable luxury. Or something like mountain goats balancing high up in the cliffs over the abyss: Somewhat fascinating, but not really regarded as relevant.“

Background noise: uninsulated drains in the bedroom

Text by Lynne Kouassi & Daniel Vollmond

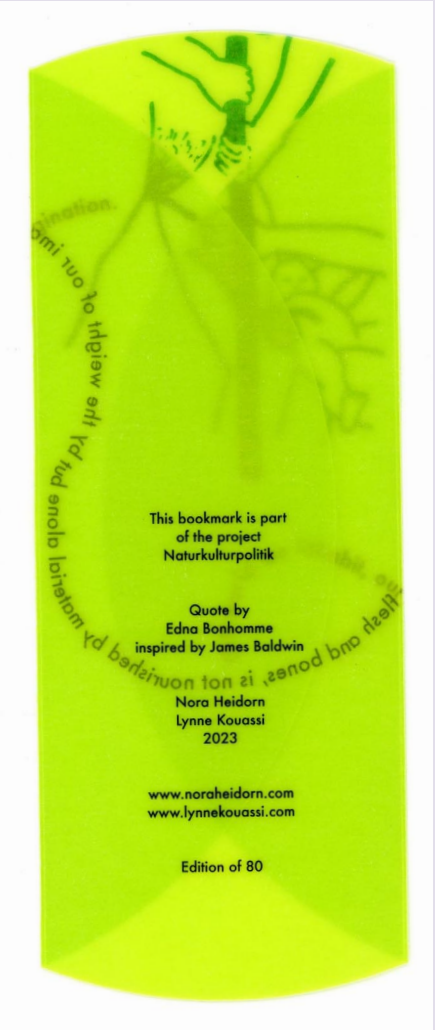


Naturkulturpolitik (III)

In collaboration with Nora Heidorn

book mark, to be sent to libraries that hold a copy of Engelman’s antique obstetrics book *Labor among primitive peoples*

2023



Exhibition view: K19 Studios

Naturkulturpolitik (II)

In collaboration with Nora Heidorn

hand-dyed textiles that show various birthing positions, symbols,
and writings, handwritten care labels, support structures

2023



Exhibition view: Project Arts Centre in Dublin
Supported by Kunstcredit Basel-Stadt



Naturkulturpolitik (I)

In collaboration with Nora Heidorn

hotel room, modified for a one month lasting Christmas Special
with the theme *The Christmas Paradox*

2022



Exhibition view: Hotel Noel

I am here. Are you there?

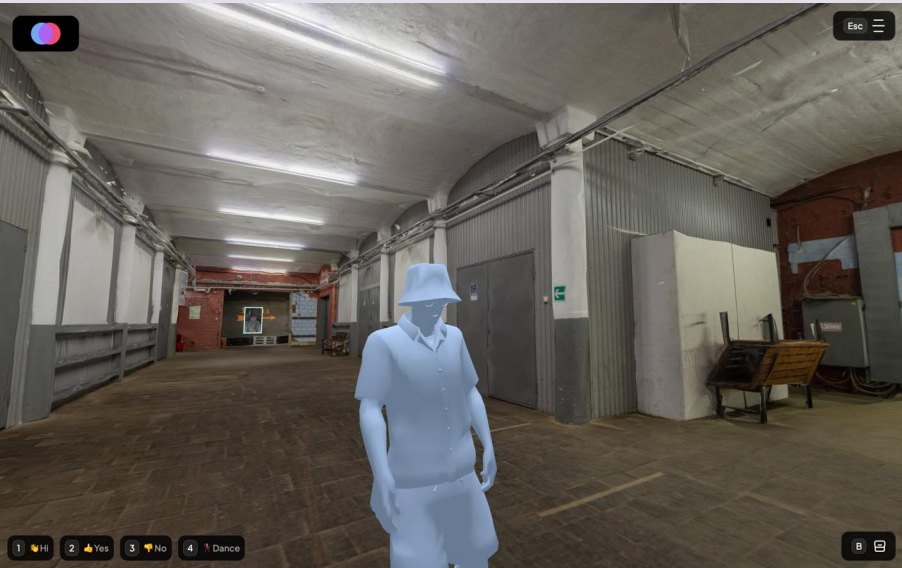
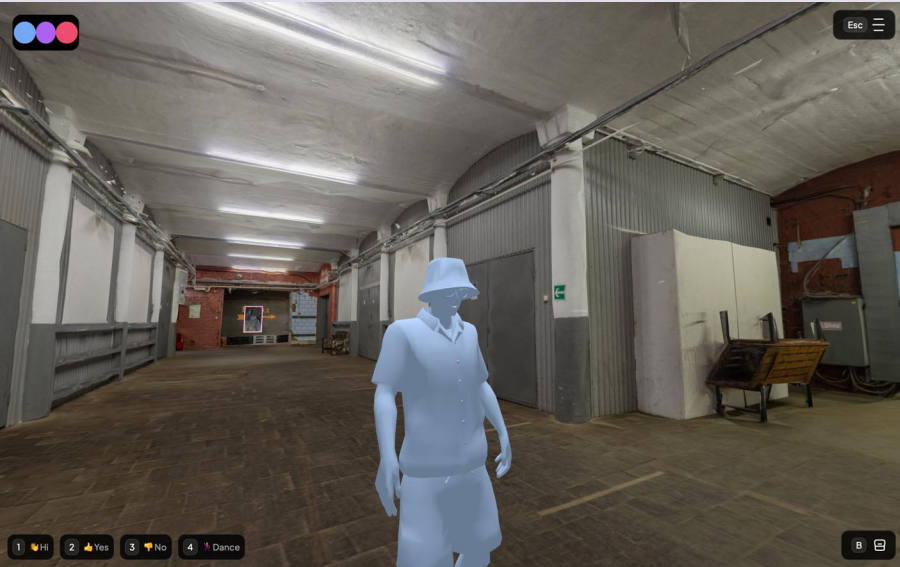
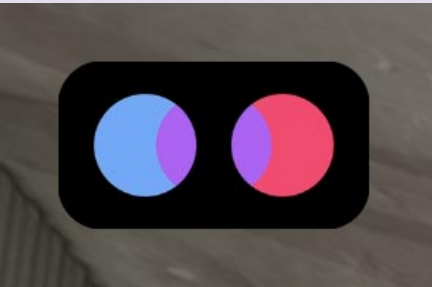
virtual group exhibition at CCI Fabrika Moscow

motion graphic implemented in the user interface (upper left corner), accompanying text

text in collaboration with Christina Pestova & Maria Styablina
tech support: Alexander Mrohs

exhibition accesible via: digital-air.art

2023



Exhibition view: Digital Fabrika Moscow

Becoming / Lost / Together

crocheted stuffed toys with body parts mixed up

2022/23

Photos by Tim Marti



Exhibition view: Salon Mondial

To be loved or not to be loved

Betty Bossy cook book, Lötschental mask, burial object (Peru) that shows a birthing scene, flower ornament, knife with mother of pearl handle, stoneplate (granite)

2022/23

Photo by Tim Marti



Exhibition view: Salon Mondial

Temporars Susch

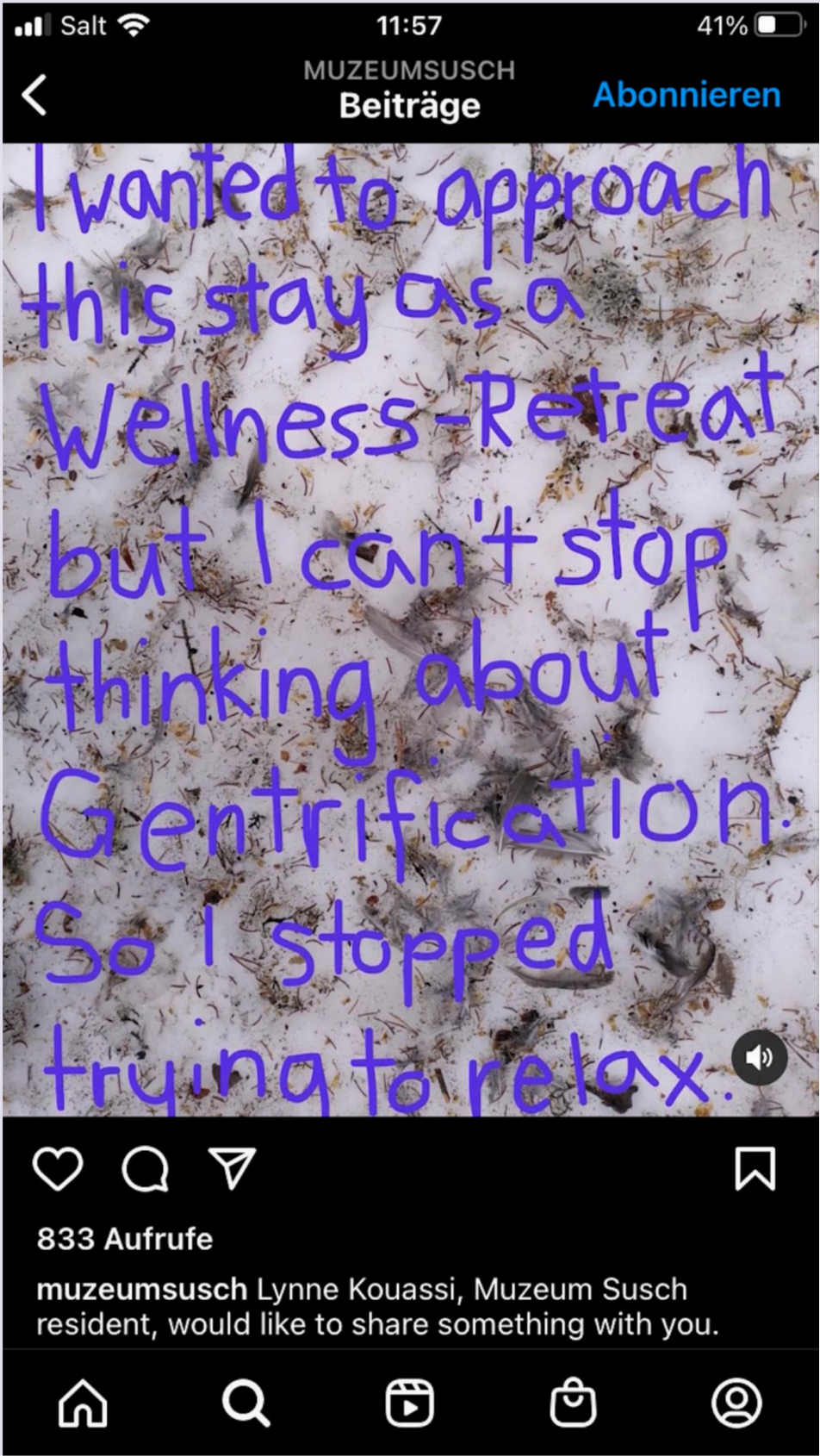
obligatory instagram news feed for a residency

2021/22



Exhibition view: Kunsthaus Langenthal

Photo by CE

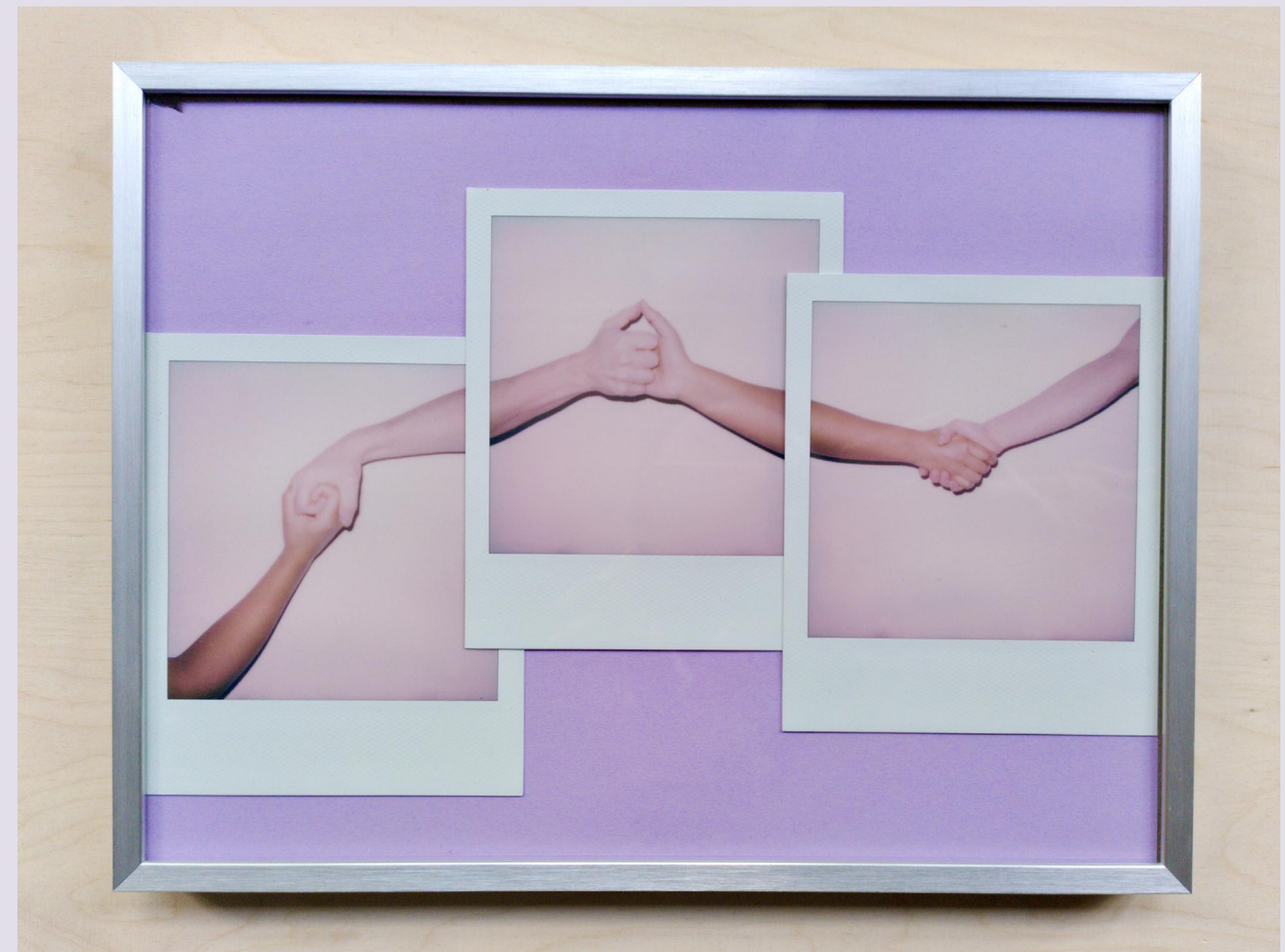


Run with me

In collaboration with Daniel Vollmond

3 polaroids, framed

2021



Exhibition view: FORMER Project Space

Worship*

make-up on cotton,
leaflet in transparent cover

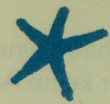
2020



Exhibition view: Kloster Dornach

Quick Guide

Wertschätzende Umgangsformen



j u n g e
b r a u n e
w e i b l i c h e
K ü n s t l e r

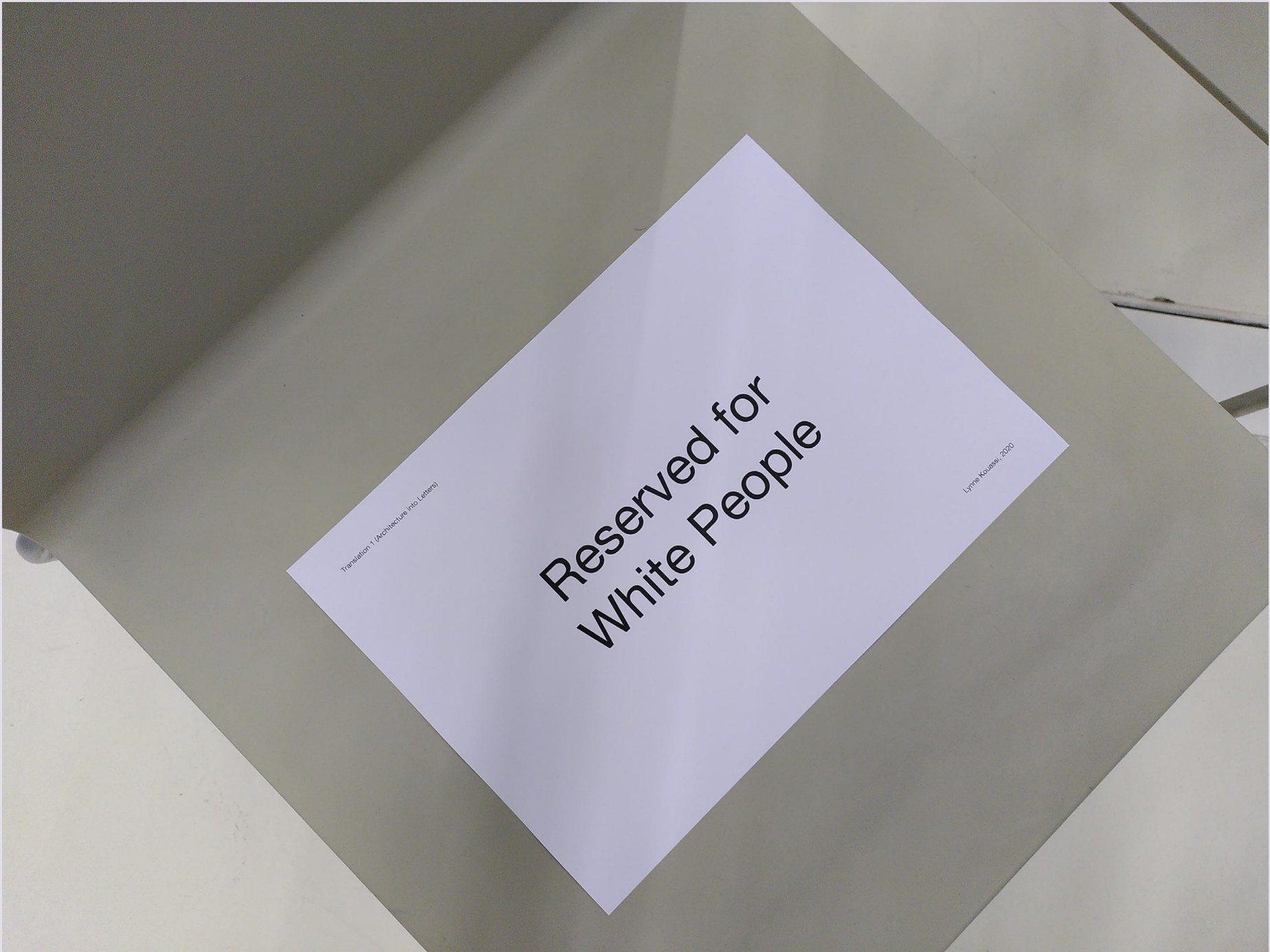
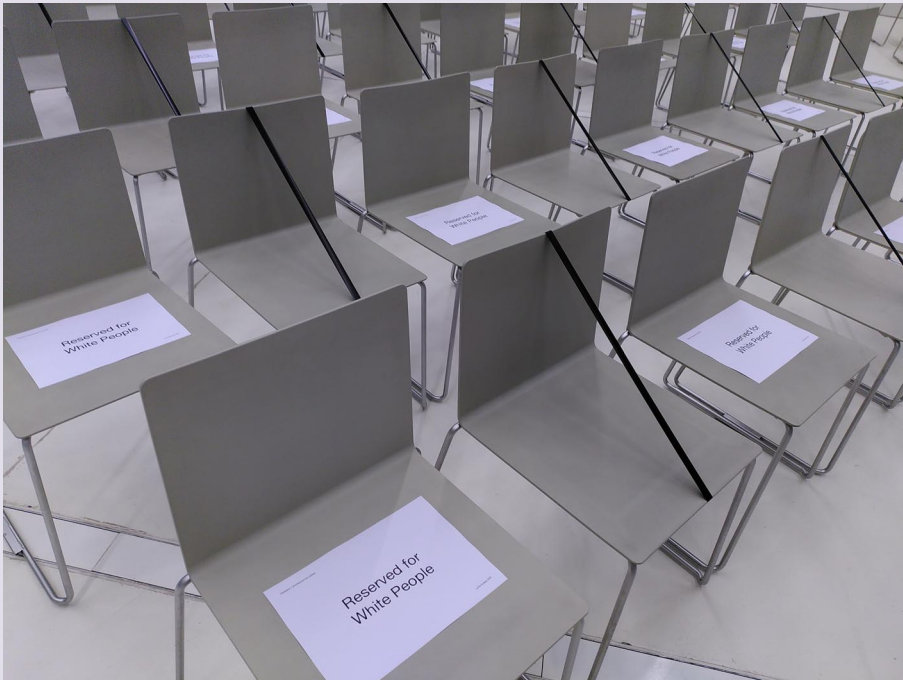
Mit realen Gesprächsfragmenten + Erläuterungen



Translation 4

Printed DIN A4 pages on the chairs of the (soon coming) audience

2020



Exhibition view: Aula FHNW Institut Kunst / Symposium Womxn in Motion

Habitat

In collaboration with Daniel Vollmond

2-screen video installation (6:45 min / 9:45 min) that shows two
bird types in their rather unexpected habitats, 6 audio channels, 2
deck chairs

2019



Video: Parakeets



Video: Robins

Exhibition view: Kunsthaus Langenthal



Orientierung

floor paint on white floor paint

2019



Exhibition view: Helmhaus

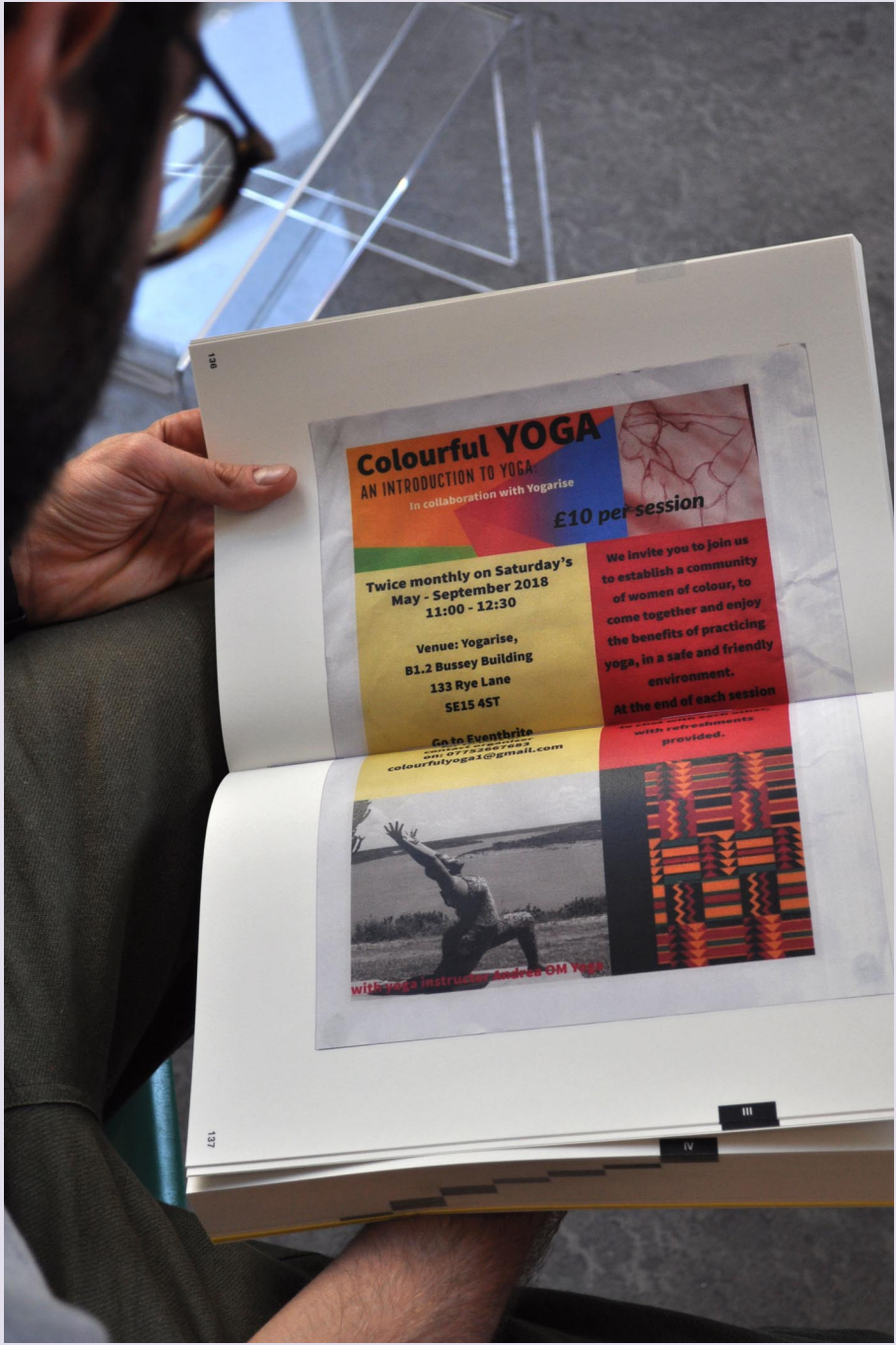
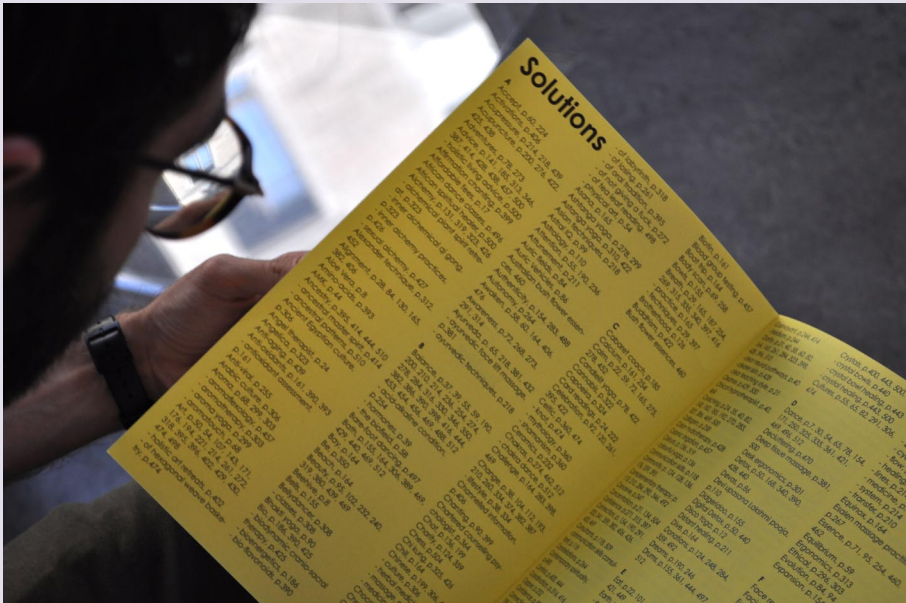
Healing 2018

reference book, chair, side table, coconut tree

2018



Exhibition view: Helmhaus



Get sexy. Get rich.

outfits in 3 sizes (S, M, L), empty price tags

2017



Exhibition view: Studio Naim

The best for the guests

water (still / sparkling / bottled / tap)
instead of everything else that would be served at the opening

2017



Exhibition view: Studio Naim

Exhibitions (Selection)

- 2024**
Kasko, *Mischabbruch - Nomadisches Archiv* (Basel, CH)
loginality, *Digital AiR* (online)
- 2023**
K19 Studios Berlin, *Naturkulturpolitik* (Berlin, DE) - SOLO
Salon Mondial, *Labour \ Identity* (Münchenstein / Basel, CH) - DUO
CCI Fabrika Moscow, *Life-Size Model* (online / Moscow, RU)
Project Arts Centre, *Being Horizontal / Sinte* (Dublin, IE)
- 2022**
Hotel Noel (Zürich Tourismus), *The Christmas Paradox* (Zürich, CH) - SOLO
Kunsthaus Langenthal, *AC-Stipendium* (Langenthal, CH)
Spoiler, *Il Circolo del Frattempo* (Berlin, DE)
- 2021**
Villa Renata, *Random Guidelines* (Basel, CH)
Kunsthau L6, *The Truth is Elsewhere* (Freiburg, DE)
E-Werk Freiburg, *Songs from the End of the World* (Freiburg, DE)
FORMER Project Space, *Ohmmmmmm* (Brussels, BE)
- 2020**
Aula FHNW Institut Kunst, *Womxn in Motion* (Münchenstein / Basel, CH)
o.T. Raum für aktuelle Kunst, *strangers, foreigners, and colonizers* (Luzern, CH) - SOLO
Kloster Dornach, *Worship** (Dornach, CH) - SOLO
- 2019**
TOMA, *ODDS* (Southend on Sea, GB)
National Gallery Skopje, *30 years Art colony Galichnik* (Skopje, MK)
Oncurating Project Space, *Hammer & Tongs* (Zürich, CH)
Kunsthau Langenthal, *Unbehaust* (Langenthal, CH)
Kloster Dornach, *Aussteigen-auf-Zeit* (Dornach, CH)
Helmhaus, *of color,* (Zürich, CH)
- 2018**
Museum Romeinse Katakomben, *Secret Gardens* (Valkenburg, NL)
Manifesta 12 Satellite: Video Sound Art Festival, *Talpe. Well said, old mole* (Palermo, IT)
Peckham Pelican, *WAL-NUT Issue 2* (London, GB)
Helmhaus, *Werk- und Auslandetelirstipendien* (Zürich, CH)
Cody Dock Gallery, *WAL-NUT Issue 1* (London, GB)

*1991 / Art exhibitions since 2014 / <https://lynnkouassi.com>

Education

- 2017**
Tenderpixel, *The fiction of the fix* (London, GB)
AINSI, *Solastalgia* (Maastricht, NL)
Studio Naim, *A Physical Thing* (Tel Aviv, IL)
- Master of Arts in Fine Art
Goldsmiths, University of London
2015-2017
- Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art
ZHdK, Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
2012-2015
Abschluss mit Auszeichnung

Stipends, Awards & Artist Residencies (Selection)

- 2023**

Recherche-Stipendium
Basel-Stadt
- 2022**

AiR CCI Fabrika Moscow
01.10.22 - 28.02.23
(online)

Atelier Mondial
01.01. - 30.06.
(Berlin, DE)
- 2021**

Temporars Susch (Muzeum Susch)
26.04. - 23.05
(Susch, CH)
- 2019**

Auslandatelirstipendium der Stadt Zürich
01.02. - 31.07
(Genua, IT)

Art Colony Galichnik
15.08. - 22.08.
(Galichnik, MK)