

SUMAC SPACE AN INITIATIVE DEVOTED TO CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, SHOWS ITS EIGHTH DIGITAL EXHIBITION *LONGING FOR COMMUNITY*

THE EXHIBITION IS ON-VIEW AT WWW.SUMAC.SPACE FROM JANUARY 24th TO MARCH 22nd, 2022; Curated by Aline Lenzhofer



How do we gather? What kind of communities do we form? As new encounters and gatherings become more difficult and are even considered a threat to our mutual well-being, during the Covid pandemic, the exhibition explores forms of artistic exchange in public or virtual space. Be it an invitation to have tea together in public, a quest for a common non-verbal language, a reflection on the dialectal expressions of collective activities or an encounter between two music genres and their audiences, the participating artists present ways of being together in a time when community is in question. Language and action-based communication open up further exchanges, meetings or assemblies, which may take place in physical or digital spheres and imagine a possible, alternative institutionality.

The exhibition takes place as part of a cooperation with [philomena+](#) and is expanded to a billboard presentation in public space at the walls of [FLUC Vienna](#).

PARTICIPANT ARTISTS

Fanni Futterknecht, b. 1979, Vienna Austria. Her artistic work adopts a position that spans media, ranging between video, performance and installation. In her works she reflects on sociological and social questions, converting them into poetic interpretations. In spatial and plastic translations, and by means of language, the artist works on the construction and deconstruction of scenarios and the questioning of the media employed.

Soukaina Joual, b. 1990, Fez Morocco. Lives and works in Rabat. Soukaina Joual is an interdisciplinary artist. Her work (video, performance, painting, installations) breaks down boundaries between public and private space, individual and community, the inside and outside of our bodies, and artistic and everyday actions. Soukaina Joual is 1/5 of the artist group K-oh-Ilective.

Seba Kayan, b. Vienna Austria. Seba Kayan is a viennese DJ and artist. Her music has a forensic, political and metaphorical approach. By digging into various music archives she collects lost pieces. In her musical spectrum, techno meets Anatolian sounds. A binary vision of an occidental vs. oriental world is not aimed to be created, but both cultures are tried to be embodied and become interwoven. By seeking the past in archives, an imagination of tomorrow is getting shaped into a hybrid music.

Nourhan Maayouf, b. 1990, Cairo Egypt. Lives and works between Cairo and Sierre, Switzerland. She works with different mediums such as photography, illustration, performance and text. Her work is mostly autobiographical exploring themes of home, body and relationships. Recently she started to grow an interest in socially engaged art practices that involve conversation and participation. She is currently studying Arts in Public Spheres at the Valais School of Art and Design.

Engy Mohsen, b. 1995, Cairo Egypt. Engy Mohsen is an artist, architect and graphic designer. While spatial design remains at the core of her interdisciplinary practice, she works -solo and collaboratively- with text, drawing, photography, performance, discursive acts and conversation as a medium. She explores the notions of 'participation' and 'collectivity' by hosting formats of meeting that invite non-artists and artists to think about how spaces can be organized to include the 'other'. Engy Mohsen is 1/5 of the artist group K-oh-Ilective.

CURATOR

Aline Lenzhofer is a cultural worker and curator with a focus on collaborative practices, socio-political issues and artistic forms of the WANA region. With a background in cultural and social anthropology and a degree in applied cultural studies, Aline Lenzhofer has worked with various art spaces such as Institut d'art contemporain de Villeurbanne (Lyon), Kulte Center for Contemporary Art (Rabat), the Austrian Cultural Forum (Cairo) and das weisse haus (Vienna). Currently she works as co-curator of the visual arts program at philomena+ and as freelance cultural worker in Vienna.

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