

Psychic Topographies

Laura Gozlan, Hadrien Jacquélet, Alix Marie, Philipp Timischl
Curated by Andrew Hodgson & Sini Rinne-Kanto

31.05 - 23.06/2024

Unwavering in their vision, though originally designed to be exhibited in Kunsthalle Bielefeld, upon finding that this city and this Kunsthalle do not exist, curators Andrew Hodgson & Sini Rinne-Kanto now install the group show 'Psychic Topographies' unchanged; in the Kunsthalle of this Le Marais apartment. Artists Laura Gozlan, Hadrien Jacquélet, Alix Marie, and Philipp Timischl are invited to engage their variegated artistic practices of, in turn; video, painting, sculpture, and mural, as a process of dredging obscure corners of the internal human self and bringing what they find there out into the light of day. With their works presented here, they look into the complex and shadowy features of interior human life, and map the difficult to approach forms they glimpse there on external space through the objects presented in this exhibition.

'Psychic Topographies' is the second product of Andrew Hodgson & Sini Rinne-Kanto's curatorial collaboration. The first of which, in the guise of editors, was a book. They have therefore chosen to continue within the structures of that genre. As a part of that, a little like an autofiction novel, they write here in the third-person about themselves. On a more fundamental scale, the exhibition you have just entered, or perhaps just left, takes the form of a book overlaid across physical space. It follows from preface, to four distinct though interacting chapters, to some form of reconciliation or conclusion, at the end. As such, the works in the exhibition warp and glitch the domestic architecture of this T2 apartment, finding their place along the walls and ceiling, across the iron fireplace, and reposing over the windows and doorways, coming to an ending in the toilet. There, murmuring confessions can be heard echoing in the multiple voices of the show's participants. This exhibition text, its opening letters and syllables at least, welcomes the visitor at the door. It is installed on the wall in a manner that reorients text as, rather than a basic tool for the communication of straitjacketed meaning, a visual two-dimensional sculpting of curves and shapes meaning nothing at all, or something else entirely. You the visitor assuredly find yourself craning and stretching your own body into distorted positions in any attempt to decipher the text as it there appears.

The exhibition's queries are deeply rooted in 19th and 20th-century histories of scientific and medical attempts to decode artworks' representative and communicative processes. These attempts have a tendency to re-emerge during moments of vast shift in the status quo of human being-in-the-world. From French psychiatric doctor Jean-Martin Charcot and sculptor Paul Richer in the late 19th-century and their comparative diagnoses of artworks at the advent of photography – among the wider experiential accelerations of

technological modernity –, to efforts to analyse the artworks of patients at the Bedlam psychiatric hospital in London in the same era. And further still, in the post-Second World War, post-atomic bomb era, with Jean Dubuffet's collections of art brut and écrits bruts, as well as Scottish psychiatrist R. D. Laing's experimentations with narrative forms and definitional parallels in psychological processes, as well as his exhibitions of patient art alongside grand works of pre-war Surrealism. The theme of art-medical interpretations of artistic objects have repeatedly resurfaced at moments when society has undergone fundamental epistemic ruptures from the reality norms that preceded them. 'Psychic Topographies' seeks to provide a re-reading of these reflections in introducing these themes to the 21st-century contemporary art context. The show asks questions around forms of self-making and exterior materialisations of our inner projections, here at the beginning of a new millennium. An era where we find ourselves confronted with the impending moment of technological singularity, with new forms of human and mechanical being emerging, and, in tandem, new and vast global socio-political upheavals alongside the early signs of climatic dissolution of the world as humans have known it.

Through the sculptural practice of Alix Marie presenting prosthesis-like limbs and Philipp Timischl's work with exaggerated and invasive bodily formations, a series of different perspectives on interpretative presentations of the bodily human as a conduit for experiential questions are presented. The figurative painting of Hadrien Jacquélet presents portraits of the inner self as if trapped within cramped cells they struggle to claw their way out of. In the work of Laura Gozlan, the questions of splitting internal selves and multiple flows of consciousness are explored through the praxis of moving images. Through these varied artistic practices, a bridge is formed from the differing ways these artistic voices find exterior expression and become here in this apartment intertwined with daily human living. Though each artist was invited here independently to engage these themes, it is perhaps a telling tendency in the works presented, that the forms they have each chosen to map this theme across is a warping, distended re-representation of the human body itself. Together, they look to spur a questioning exploration of the vastness of internal and external unknowability, that can read from the mythic to the minutiae. Concluding the presentation, in the toilet, a looped recording details the inner lives of the authors of the exhibition as confessed to the curators, Andrew Hodgson & Sini Rinne-Kanto, through the medium of a faux-psychoanalytical tarot reading. The collective audio piece functions as a sort of operating table of psychism, providing a symbolic reading of the participants that further obscures the deliverance of the inner selves with arduous pasts and unknown futures, detailing memories, desires and repressions. Together, the installation of 'Psychic Topographies' prompts you the viewer, the curators so assume, to consider the role of the rational and the irrational, and the interaction of these two human drives in the plotting of human inner projections across fleeting time, and in diminishing space.

Andrew Hodgson & Sini Rinne-Kanto

Profil

Paris-based visual artist Laura Gozlan studied scenography at Helsinki's University of Art and Design and EnsAD in Paris. She graduated from Le Fresnoy, National Studio of Contemporary Arts, in 2007, where she studied with director Chantal Akerman. Gozlan has exhibited her work in various French institutions and internationally, including MoCo in Montpellier, 40mcube in Rennes, and Futura in Prague. Her films and installations depict outrageously articulated moments of desire and satisfaction in contrasting, intimate settings. Featuring darker elements, her work questions social norms and explores the aesthetics of prosthetics and aging. Recently, Gozlan directed a series of micro-fictions in which she performs, documenting the transformations of a recurring androgynous figure navigating through cosmetics, politics, and altered states of consciousness, exploring their transformative potential.

Hadrien Jacquélet (b.1987) is a French figurative painter. His portraits of friends, controversial figures, and himself waver between faithful renditions and synthetic creatures at the turn of our century. Since 2010, he has participated in group shows in Paris, Los Angeles, Berlin and Milan. Solo exhibitions include a show at One Wall Gallery, Paris, 2022, and Superstition, at Del Vaz Projects, Los Angeles, 2015.

Alix Marie (b.1989 in Bobigny) is a French multidisciplinary artist, working mostly across photography, sculpture and installation. Her work explores our relationship to bodies and their representation, through processes of fragmentation, magnification and accumulation. She has demonstrated a particular interest in addressing gender stereotypes while working on the persistence and influence of myths. Metamorphosis; of bodies, of mediums, of and within stories is at the center of her practice. She graduated from Central Saint Martins College in 2011 with a first class degree in fine art and later completed an MA in photography at the Royal College of Art (2014). In 2019 she was awarded the Vic Odden Award by the Royal Photographic Society for a notable achievement in the art of photography by an artist aged 35 or under. Recent exhibitions include: Spiritual Urgency, Stedelijk Schiedam (2022), Styx, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (solo, 2022), Sorsi Di Sale, Ncontemporary, Milan (solo, 2022), Raw, Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam, (2022), Sucer la nuit, Musée des beaux-arts, Le Locle (solo, 2019).

Philipp Timischl is an artist born in 1989 in Graz. Coming from the rural countryside of Austria he is now living and working in Paris, France. His practice mainly consists of combining painting with video, often including text and culminating in site-specific installations. Timischl's work is filled with humor, while also delving into the recurring themes of power dynamics between social classes, often in relation to queerness, origins, and the art world. Since studying in Frankfurt, Städelschule and graduating from the Academy of fine Arts in Vienna, he recently had solo exhibitions at Secession, Vienna; High Art, Paris; Layr, Vienna; MGK Siegen, Siegen; Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg; Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg; Vilma Gold, London; Neue Alte Brücke, Frankfurt; Martos, Los Angeles; Künstlerhaus Graz. His work was shown in group exhibitions at NGV Triennial, Melbourne; Biennale de Lyon, Lyon; Méca Bordeaux; ICA London; MAK Vienna; Kunsthalle Bern; Kunstwerke Berlin; Luma Foundation, Zürich; Fondazione Sandretto re Rabaudengo, Turin; Kunsthalle Vienna and Serpentine Gallery, London.

Andrew Hodgson is a British writer, researcher and curator living in Paris. He is the author of the critical studies *The Post-War Experimental Novel* (Bloomsbury, 2019) and *Surrealisms* (Bloomsbury, 2025), as well as the novels *Reperfusion* (WPS&B, 2012) and *Mnemonic Symbols* (Dostoyevsky Wannabe, 2019). For the book *New Forms of Art and Contagious Mental Illness* (New Documents, 2023), he selected and translated a series of texts from Danish into English, describing an episode in art history following the First World War when avant-garde art and literature were considered a pathogen of a «contagious ophthalmic psychosis». In 2016 he was awarded a Doctorat for the study of experimental art and literature. His critical writing has appeared in *frieze*, *Art Basel*, *The Paris Review*, *The Guardian*, *3:AM Magazine* &c.

Sini Rinne-Kanto is a Finnish, Paris-based curator, researcher, and PhD candidate. Her multidisciplinary curatorial practice tracks the intersections of visual arts and design, and her research focuses on Nordic postwar design histories. Her research interests encompass interiors and domesticity, collective identities, sociocultural narratives of the material world, and histories of feminist practices. Her curatorial practice is situated at the intersection of visual arts and design, and she has contributed to various contemporary art institutions, galleries, and not-for-profit platforms in recent years. She has co-founded two non-profit art spaces in Paris, 'The Community' (2016) and 'La Plage' (2015). Her recent curatorial projects include the group exhibitions *Houses of Tove Jansson* (Paris, 2023) and *AllTogether* (Paris, Venice, New York, 2022—2023). In 2024, she curates the Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale's main exhibition, *Surprise Guest*.

1 Philipp Timischl

I love my brain and thinking and always having thoughts, 2024

Ink on wall

Dimensions variable

2. Alix Marie

Mue Mensuelle I, 2023

Pine resin and blue orchid wax,
hair, perspex

100 x 55 cm

3. Alix Marie

Mue Mensuelle II, 2023

Pine resin and blue orchid wax,
hair, perspex

100 x 55 cm

4. Hadrien Jacquelet

Untitled 3 (Contrapposto), 2023-24

Oil on canvas

180 x 175 cm

5. Hadrien Jacquelet

Untitled (Contrapposto, window), 2024

Oil on canvas

180 x 100 cm

6. Laura Gozlan

Now you're inside me, it doesn't mean we'll collegially agree on all topics, 2024

With Giulia Terminio, Laura Gozlan
Film, 2K resolution, 6'40"

A. Andrew Hodgson, Sini Rinne-Kanto, Lucas Poirey
Concrete Poem, 2024
Acrylic on wall

B. Andrew Hodgson, Sini Rinne-Kanto, Laura Gozlan, Hadrien Jacquelet, Alix Marie, Philipp Timischl, Lucas Poirey
Mind Reading, 2024
Audio, 83'47"

