

Press Release

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea

The Concurrent Presence Part III XII

Sira-Zoé Schmid

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present “The Concurrent Presence Part III XII”, a solo exhibition featuring works by the Austrian artist Sira-Zoé Schmid.

Sira-Zoé Schmid is an artist, with a focus on photography, text, installation and performance. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna in the class “Fine Art and Photography” under Matthias Herrmann and Martin Guttmann, and graduated in 2013. She is living and working in Vienna, and Salzburg.

She has received many grants and residencies and has been shown in several international institutions and galleries.

Working within the “extended field of photography” Sira-Zoé Schmid explores the different (multilayered) possibilities of multimedia pictorial invention. The examination of all media and sociocultural topics that surround us are very important to her and are conducive to her artistic work.

The volcanic deserts of Gran Canaria and Lanzarote are the ever changing misanthropic environments of Sira-Zoé Schmid's video performances exhibited here. The deserts of this planet are no stranger to the art world: a convenient metaphor for emptiness and desolation, it is the paradigmatic ‘nowhere’.

Deserts are real places, and they are also metaphors. Real deserts have an ecological extreme that makes them easy to symbolize many aspects of human life: an empty place, a place without many resources, a place where lives are fragile and in the balance.

But the metaphor is not just about the negative. Deserts are also extraordinary places of resilience, surprises, and astonishing beauty.

Great artists of the twentieth century such as Georgia O’Keeffe, Agnes Martin, have chosen at different times in their lives to immerse themselves in the boundless territories of the American deserts.

Michael Heizer, leader of the Land Art movement in the sixties together with Walter De Maria, Robert Smithson and Dennis Oppenheim, created works of art and large-scale installations in the American deserts documented with photographs and films.

In 2017 Schmid began her video performance series “Desert Flower” in the American Mojave desert. A woman — the artist — wearing a dark dress and a small blue parasol and turning her back to the viewer, takes a solitary path into the desert until she disappears on the horizon. With a clear and poetic visual language she explores the interaction of light and shadow on the shapes of the desert, revealing its austere beauty and reflecting — as she slowly advances through the desert — on the sense of bewilderment and fragility that this beauty causes.

On Artist in Residency in Lanzarote & Gran Canaria in 2022 Schmid continued her performance series Desert Flower by a second part.

This is what the curator *Sophie Haslinger* writes about her work : "A woman — the artist — enters the frame from the right, her back facing the camera. The protagonist, wearing a black dress and holding an electric-blue parasol, looks almost surreal in this barren landscape. She continues walking towards the horizon until her parasol becomes a small blue dot that slips entirely out of view as it disappears into the distance.

During a month long project trip through Gran Canaria and Lanzarote Sira-Zoé Schmid was finally able to continue the group of works „Desert Flower Part I“ from 2017 (Mojave Desert, California) by a second part containing 11 new video performances and photographic works.

Like all of Sira-Zoé Schmid's photo and video performances, „Desert Flower“ is — as the artist describes — a "private performance" for the camera only, without the presence of an audience. Schmid also repeatedly works with fixed camera positions that enable her to act as both performer, director, and camera operator. The moving picture thus all the more replicates photography: each individual frame could exist on its own as tightly composed photographic works. She worked with visual artist Markus Oberndorfer to photographically document the performances.

This video-performances tie into Sira-Zoé Schmid's early performative works, which always grew out of personal experiences. Only rough concepts at first, she develops her performances intuitively and spontaneously, referencing her concrete surroundings. The protagonist walks calmly but determinedly on a path towards the horizon until she is no longer visible. The action of walking visualizes both ephemerality and the passing of pain and loss. At the same time, Schmid stages the walk as a meditative process — in the vastness of the landscape she reflects on the eternity of thoughts.

The title "Desert Flower" signalsizes the possibility of life and beauty within an inhospitable environment. Like a desert flower, the protagonist appears and disappears again shortly thereafter. What remains is a memory. Only seen from the back, Schmid's character deliberately remains anonymous, and can be representative of anyone. With a clear and poetic visual language, Desert Flower is a universal exploration into loss and ephemerality and the various mechanisms of coping with these sensations".

The exhibition is supported by

Land Salzburg (<https://www.salzburg.gv.at/themen/kultur>),

Forum Austriaco di Cultura Roma (<https://www.austriacult.roma.it/de/>),

Bildrecht (<https://www.bildrecht.at/>) &

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea



forum austriaco di cultura^{rma}

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday October 12, 2024 19.30 pm

Period

October 12– November 30 2024

Opening hours

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Saturday only by appointment

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 6 pm to 8 pm

Info

3348714094 – 392.5985840

[http://info@muratcentoventidue.com](mailto:info@muratcentoventidue.com)

<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea>

https://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue_bari

CV**Mag.art. Sira-Zoé Schmid**

* 1985 lives and works in Vienna & Salzburg

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Education

2013 „Art & Photography“, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (Matthias Herrmann, Martin Guttman), Diploma „Fine Art“ June 2013 (Martin Guttman)

2012 Bachelor „Theater-, Film- & Media Studies“, University of Vienna

2010 „Art & Culture Studies“, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Grants | Residencies

Project funding Desert Flower Continuation, Land Salzburg & BMKÖS, 2022

Work Grant for 3 months, Land Salzburg, 2020

One-Year Grant for Photography 2018, Land Salzburg

Chicago - Artist in Residency, Land Salzburg, May - June 2017

Berlin - Artist in Residency, Land Salzburg, October - November 2015

Beijing - Artist in Residency, Land Salzburg, August - September 2013

Paris - JCE Artist in Residence, Montrouge/Pairs, October - December 2012

Collections

Art Collection BKA MdM Salzburg

Art Collection Land Salzburg

Art Collection Huantie Times Art Museum, Peking

Art Collection Ville de Montrouge, Paris
Private Art Collections

Features | Articles

„LONG LIVE THE VULVA“ [Les Nouveau Riches Magazine, 2022](#)

Article about „Blocks of Serenity Vol. III“ im Kunst im Traklhaus, Dehpunkt Kultur, 2020

Article about „Blocks of Serenity Vol. II“ im Schloss Goldegg, SN, 2019

Artists' Moving Image Works — Edition N° 8, 6x6 project featuring Sira-Zoé Schmid's latest video works, [6x6project.com](#), 2018

Feature about Sira-Zoé Schmid's most recent works from Chicago by Sophie Haslinger at [female photographers vienna](#), Vienna 2017

Article about [Sira-Zoé Schmid's multimedia project "Past | Present | Future"](#) by Rita Newmann at [Morgen Magazine](#), (6 page spread), Lower Austria 2017

Exhibitions | Talks | Performances

2024 UPCOMING

„The concurrent presence Part III XII“, Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea, Bari, Italy (S)

2023

„Kunst Buch Donnerstag / 50 Jahre“, Mumok Vienna

„Sade. Freedom or Evil“, group show, CCCB, Barcelona, [cccb.org/en](#)

2022

„LONG LIVE THE VULVA“, feminist & charitable art project, digital release December 2022, [longlivethevulva.sira-zoe-schmid.com](#)

„I AM YOUR ORACLE“, Performance, Horizon exhibit, Bildraum Studio, Vienna (S)

„HORIZON“, group show, Bildraum Studio, Vienna, [bildrecht.at/bildraum/bildraum-studio/horizon/](#)

2021

Art for Children, charity auction, Albertina, Vienna, [www.artforchildren.ch](#)

2020

„zu spät gekommen“, Solo Exhibition, zuratet by Manuela Hillman & Philipp Pest, Vent Gallery, Vienna, [ventgallery.com](#)

„Blocks of Serenity Vol. III“, Solo Exhibition, Opening with Günter Schönberger (*Bildrecht*) & Sophie Haslinger (*Curator*), Galerie im Traklhaus - Studio, Salzburg, [salzburg.gv.at/traklhaus](#)

2019

„... jenseits einer ... zu blicken“, Blocks of Serenity Vol. II, Solo Exhibition, Opening with Kulturlandesrat und LH-Stv.

Heinrich Schellhorn and curator and art historian Ruth Horak, Schloss Goldegg, Salzburg, [schlossgoldegg.at](#)

„Vienna Artbook Fair #1“, Angewandten, Vorderen Zollamtsstraße 7, Vienna, [viennaartbookfair.com](#)

„Kunstankäufe Land Salzburg 2017-2019“, Kunst im Traklhaus, Salzburg, [salzburg.gv.at/traklhaus](#)

„Kunst|Buch|Donnerstag with Sira-Zoé“ Schmid, mumok, Vienna, [mumok.at](#)

„Blocks of Serenity“, Solo Exhibition, Bildraum 07, Vienna, [bildrecht.at](#)

„Menschenbilder. Neuankäufe der Fotosammlung des Bundes“, Group Exhibition, Museum of Modern Art Salzburg Rupertinum, [museumdermoderne.at](#)

2018

„A Passanger“, Group Show, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, [salzburger-kunstverein.at](#)

„mumok art book day“, mumok kino und kino Foyer, Vienna, [mumok.at](#)

„The concurrent presence Part II“, Solo Exhibition, Vent Gallery, Vienna, [ventgallery.com](#)

„I AM YOUR ORACLE - A performative mediation“, Performance, Vent Gallery, Vienna, [ventgallery.com](#)

„The concurrent presence Part I“, Solo Exhibition, Vent Gallery, Vienna, [ventgallery.com](#)

„ada is ... Sira-Zoé Schmid“, Solo Exhibition, ada, Vienna, [artisticdynamicassociation.eu](#)

„Clitical Talk. Improper Riot x Rriiot Festival 2018“ with [female_photographers_vienna](#), Sira-Zoé Schmid, ..., [Improper Walls Gallery](#), Vienna

2017

„PAST PRESENT FUTURE - 27 Artists | 27 Positions“, curated by Sophie Haslinger, Veronika Rudorfer & Sira-Zoé Schmid, [ARCC.at](#) [Open Space](#), [pastpresentfutureproject](#)

Lecture Performance „Past | Present | Future“ by Sira-Zoé Schmid, with a reading by Daniela Zacherl, Galerie IG Bildende Kunst, Vienna, [igbildendekunst.at](#) | [pastpresentfutureproject](#)

Sira-Zoé Schmid „Past | Present | Future“ Magazine Presentation & Pop Up Solo Exhibition, with speeches by Gabriele Schor (Verbund Collection), Günter Schönberger (*Bildrecht*) & Fahim Amir (Artuniversity Linz), Bildraum 01, Vienna [bildrecht.at/bildraum](#) | [pastpresentfutureproject](#)

2016

„mitgebracht II“, Ergebnisse aus dem Auslandsatelier- Programm des Landes Salzburg, [Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg](#)
„Sira-Zoé Schmid - MARKERS“, Soloexhibition, curated by Sophie Haslinger, [Jan Arnold Gallery, Vienna](#)

2015

„Open Studios 2015 - Milchhof“, Berlin
„Kunstankäufe Salzburg seit 2013 Teil 1“, Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg
„Narrative Lines - Sira-Zoé Schmid“, Soloexhibition, Festung Salzburg im ehem. Hödlmoser-Atelier, Salzburg
„100“, Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg
„Identity Politics #3“, Vasa Project - Journal on Images and Culture, VJIC Ausgabe #8
„Resonate“ DI∞G - Endpräsentation, wellwellwell, Destination Vienna Extended
„Smells Like Teen Sprit“, Fotogalerie Wien, Destination Vienna Extended

2014

„rough but gentle“ group exhibition, Spenglerei, Month of Photography Vienna
„UNINVISIBLE II - Sebastian Koch & Sira-Zoé Schmid“ @ DI8G, Month of Photography Vienna
„small differences - Thomas Kwopil & Sira-Zoé Schmid“, mo.ë contemporary, Vienna
„Uninvisible - Sebastian Koch & Sira-Zoé Schmid“, DI∞G, Vienna

2013

„JCE en residence ...“, Médiatheque de Montrouge, Paris
„(de)activate function“ HuanTie Times Art Gallery, Beijing
„Diploma Exhibition“ at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, Museu Amadeo-De Souza Cardoso, Amarante, Portugal

2012

„Expanded Field of Photography“, W/END/Y - Wassergasse 6, Vienna
„n Milliarden Photos I O Zeit, deine Pyramiden“, Eyes on - Monat der Fotografie Vienna, Atelier Pataform, Vienna
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, Galerie im Trakelhaus, Salzburg
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, European Capital of Culture 2010, Pecs
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, Bratislava City Gallery, Bratislava
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, Klaipeda Exhibition Hall, Lithuania

2011

„Help Hope Health“, H3 Concept Gallery, Paris
„JCE 2011/13 Biennale d'Art Contemporain“, La Fabrique, Paris (Montrouge), France
“Open Days 2011“, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

2010

„A Group Show“ Gallery Hilger - Brot Kunsthalle, Month of Photography, Vienna
„Edition 6+2“, art by Berchtoldvilla, Salzburg
„Mash Up - Project“, Galerie Koko, Vienna;
“Open Days 2010“, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

2009

„Personae“, Atelier-Operngasse, Wien
„Klasse für Kunst und Urheberrecht - Oberfächlich und tief“, Atelier-Grundsteingasse 5, Vienna
“Open Days 2009“, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

2008

„Die Zelle -Verein zur Förderung von Kunst im Öffentlichen Raum“, Vienna
Open Days 2008, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna