

September 26, 2022

PRESS PACKAGE

Nature and State

July 09 – October 16, 2022

Exhibition in the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

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Press release

Nature and State

July 09 – October 16, 2022

Presse conference: Thursday, July 07, 2022, 11 am

registration is requested: Anja Busam, busam@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de

Opening weekend: July 08 – July 10, 2022

Friday, July 08, 2022

6 pm Opening

7 pm *O Barco/The Boat*, Performance by Grada Kilomba

8.30 pm *Becoming Sculptures*, Performance by Ersan Mondtag

Saturday, July 09, 2022

12 am Artist Talks

3 pm *Becoming Sculptures*, Performance by Ersan Mondtag

5 pm *O Barco/The Boat*, Performance by Grada Kilomba

Sunday, July 10, 2022

12 am Artist Talks

Further program

Fotzenschleimpower gegen Raubtierkapitalismus, Performance by Mateja Meded

Friday, September 30, 5 pm

Saturday, October 01, 2 pm

Hjîrok, Performance by Hani Mojtahedy and Andi Toma

Friday, October 07, 5 pm

Saturday, October 08, 3 pm, 5 pm

RDD - Robodynamische Diffusion, Performance in public space

A project by Michael Akstaller, Nele Jäger, Oliver Mayer and Jan St. Werner

Saturday, October 08, starting 2 pm at Staatliche Kunsthalle

Closing weekend:

Becoming Sculptures, Performance by Ersan Mondtag

Friday, October 14, 5 pm

Saturday, October 15, 3 pm, 5 pm

With newly conceptualised works and artistic contributions by:

Michael Akstaller, Cansu Çakar, Olga Chernysheva, Ipek Duben, Alia Farid, Will Fredo, Nicole L'Huillier, Kavachi, Grada Kilomba, Robert Lippok, Constanza Macras, Silvina Der Meguerditchian, Hani Mojtahedy, Ersan Mondtag, Manuel Rossner, Christoph Schäfer, Muhannad Shono, Sorawit Songsataya, Ayman Zedani, a.o.

„History shows us that we exist in a timeless state, constantly traveling between time and space...“
Grada Kilomba¹

From climate change to drought, isolation politics to recession, armed conflicts to authoritarian regimes, many of our existential questions, planetary problems and global crises can be formulated only in reference to these two terms; *nature* and *state*.

Following last year's exhibition *State and Nature*, a multi venue project that extended both terms within the contemporary canon, this year's survey show at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden formulates a dialectical proposal with *Nature and State*. The investigation of continuity and disobedience, possible forms of transformation of the state and the genealogical relationships between future and past are at the center of this project.

The exhibition's curatorial method is one of theater, using the script as a source of storytelling: *The Dawn of Everything, A New History of Humanity* (2021), by David Graeber and David Wengrow, shifts the focus of our story to questioning the main idea of the state as a denial of the state of nature. Considering how prehistoric communities shaped their decision-making processes, *Nature and State* pursues the idea of our ancestors might have lived together better than us, and imagines different futures following early feminist science fiction by Ursula K. Le Guin.

This way, the new chapter peacefully departs from a quote by Ursula K. Le Guin: "(...) we have no states, no nations, no presidents, no premiers, no chiefs, no generals, no bosses, no bankers, no landlords, no wages, no charity, no police, no soldiers, no wars." (*The Dispossessed*, 1974).

Nature and State is not meant to be a group show in its literal sense: it is an open process that investigates temporary structures, spaces and narratives through artistic perspectives that critically question how we are ruled, controlled and governed, as well as how we can share a common imagination of togetherness. Rather than a static form of exhibition-making, the new team of Kunsthalle Baden-Baden proposes a composition with fluid, versatile and shifting methods. It invites the public to join this process over the course of the upcoming months, in which the Kunsthalle will turn into an ongoing transformation of spaces and selves. Every weekend of July and October 2022 will be hosting a specific performative program, starting with the opening weekend from Friday, July 8 to Sunday, July 10.

For Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Grada Kilomba and Ersan Mondtag, leading actors of performative research as well as German and international theater, perform each on two occasions. *O Barco/The Boat* (2021) by Kilomba will be adapted for the public park surrounding Kunsthalle Baden-Baden. A newly commissioned installation by Ersan Mondtag will be activated by his likewise new performance *Becoming Sculptures* (2022), and further act as a stage, for artist talks during opening weekend and performances during October.

¹ <https://www.frieze.com/article/grada-kilombas-excavation-history>, last accessed June 29, 2022

At the very beginning of the exhibition course unfolds Grada Kilomba's poetic imagination. Through the metaphor of a boat as part of a collective ceremony, Kilomba portrays the history of slavery and freedom in abstract poetry. Different tracks of storytelling on human existence and alien forms in various media are followed by an accumulation of acts, events, and discussions; all taking place in a humid temple architecture, a proposal for a temporary museum by Ersan Mondtag, that will dry out over time. The temple refers to ancient structures, where social, private, political and transcendent fields intersected. With queer statements by different artists scattered throughout it, future scenarios for our society are imagined.

The multi-layered projects of the exhibiting artists are connected through water as a leitmotif. The urgency of its politics and the location of the exhibition venue in the historical infrastructures in the city of Baden-Baden form the current projects' particular context, many reflecting on precious water resources.

Manuel Rossner's digital intervention creates a critical perception of the exhibition architecture and institutional space that became an enduring geo-location while being designed for temporary shows. Through experiments of sonic intelligence, Robert Lippok, Michael Akstaller, and Nicole L'Huillier respond to the architectural, spatial and bodily senses of listening to our environments, whereas Muhannad Shono, Sorawit Songsataya, and Kavachi generate political narratives about other intelligences and interconnectedness. Ipek Duben, Olga Chernysheva and Silvina Der Meguerditchian respond with their decided female gaze to the realities of nature and state, while Cansu Çakar, Alia Farid, Will Fredo, and Christoph Schäfer directly and individually revisit the question of who owns water resources and lands, how are ecological commons shared and their reflections on our individual and collective lives imagined.

Eventually, the Kunsthalle becomes that dream we dream together; an oasis, desert, river, Black Forest or antipodean habitat, an ongoing transformation of spaces and selves... it cares for all possibilities of togetherness and sharing.

Press images

We can provide you with the following pictures in print quality for press purposes. Please contact us directly to request them: presse@kunsthalle-baden-baden.de

Please note: When using the images, they should not be cropped and must not be overwritten with text. The respective captions are mandatory. Please note in any case the © of the images.



Manuel Rossner, *Spatial Painting Baden-Baden*, 2022. © Manuel Rossner.



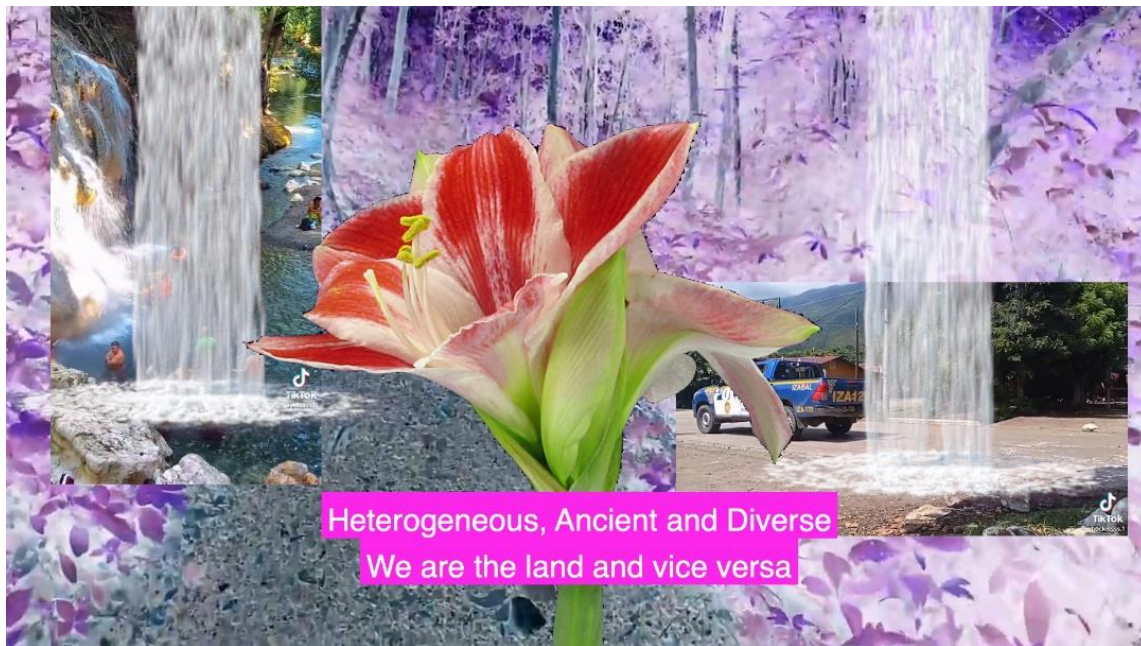
Grada Kilomba, *O Barco/The Boat*, 2021. Performance and installation, © Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Photo Günzel.Rademacher.



Ersan Mondtag, *Becoming Sculptures*. Performance, 2022, *The Temple*, Spatial design, 2022, © Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Photo Günzel.Rademacher.



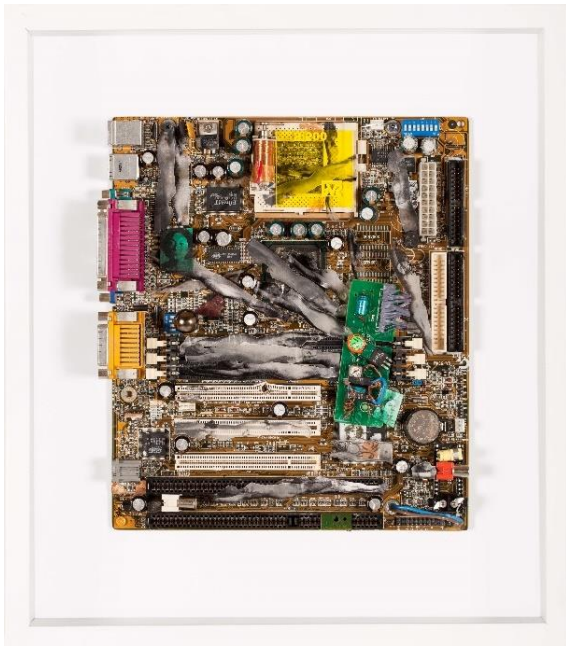
Olga Chernysheva, *Untitled (Resting on the Stairs)*, 2012. © Olga Chernysheva and the Gallery Diehl, Berlin.



Will Fredo, *MILPA + X* (still), 2022. © Will Fredo.



Muhannad Shono, *On loosing meaning*, 2021, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden,
© Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Photo Günzel.Rademacher.



Ipek Duben, *Memory Chip #5*, 2012. © Ipek Duben.



Ayman Zedani, rendering for *The Keepers*, 2022. © Ayman Zedani.

Preview: *Jimmy Robert* (October 29, 2022 – January 15, 2023)

Autumn will bring performative lenses with sensitive and specific understandings of time and movement at the Kunsthalle. Berlin-based artist Jimmy Robert deals with performative research, strategies of staging, relationships between materiality, object value, and what remains in art history post-performance. In an inspiring, poetic, and strongly political way, Robert revisits the positions of the visitor through transgressive levels of connecting bodies and spaces. (29 October-15 January)

Press contact

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Information

Title and running time are subject to change.
You can download our press kit and image materials at www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/presse.

Detailed information on the program of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden can be found on the [Webseite](#).

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm
Open on all holidays except December 24 and 31.

Prices

7€, reduced 5€, Friday free entry

Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

Lichtentaler Allee 8a
76530 Baden-Baden
www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de

STAATLICHE KUNSTHALLE
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The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

Große Sonderausstellung 2022

Status: September 26, 2022