

Edition VFO

On Thresholds and Boundaries

Opening: Friday, February 9 at 6 pm
Exhibition: February 10– May 11, 2024



Andriu Deplazes, Gerasterte Weite, 2023, lithography, 69 x 106 cm.

The exhibition "On Thresholds and Boundaries" brings together four artistic positions, all of whom have created new works for Edition VFO for the first time. Andriu Deplazes, Lisa Lurati, Noha Mokhtar and Manon Wertenbroek are four young artists from three different linguistic regions of Switzerland. Their respective artistic practices are very different and are reflected in the works presented: from Wertenbroek's sculptural exploration of material to Deplazes' painterly approach to existential questions, Lurati's graphic evocation of subconscious visions and Mokhtar's investigation of everyday objects from an anthropological and aesthetic point of view.

The title of the exhibition refers to different types of boundaries and thresholds. On the one hand, in Mokhtar's work we see the blurring of boundaries between domestic and public space, between the artist's private life and her artistic activity. In Wertenbroek's work, our physicality takes center stage, indicated by the clothing that protects us as well as communicates our performative appearance to the outside world. Deplazes takes a similar approach, moving from the exterior to the interior (or vice versa) and liberating people from their clothing as a sign of belonging to a certain milieu. In doing so, he shows the human body as the threshold through which we experience our existence. Lurati's work suggests that many experiences take place beyond corporeality, even if we seem to be trapped within the confines of our bodies and our environment.

Edition VFO

Noha Mokhtar chose the balcony as the subject of her photograms, a place on the threshold between inside and outside, private and public. The balcony poses questions about individual and collective use of space, about shelter, mutual surveillance and neighborly exchange. With the series "Saadiya (bleue)", Noha Mokhtar - as so often in her work - also makes a reference to her personal life, as the balcony railing depicted is that of her aunt Saadiya in Cairo. For the artist, the decorated metal railing symbolizes her childhood memories of summer visits to her relatives.

Journeys also play a central role in Lisa Lurati's edition. However, they are not family visits, but expeditions of a somewhat different kind, namely shamanic vision quests. The world depicted by Lurati is inspired by such journeys into the unconscious. The artist combines the graphic medium of engraving on plastic plate with the painterly process of monotype to illustrate the permeable boundary between consciousness and dream.

Andriu Deplazes' edition, consisting of three lithographs, shows different scenarios that gradually lead us from the vastness of an idyllic landscape into the intimacy of an interior. All the works are based on a dualistic juxtaposition: of human and nature, of collective symbols of power and individual fragility, of proximity and loneliness. With his unique painterly imagery, Deplazes shows how subtle and complex the boundaries between these opposites really are and how fragile human existence is.

The fragility of human beings and the transience of life are also alluded to in Manon Wertenbroek's edition. The artist has created her wall objects using fragments of clothing. Clothing serves us not only as protection, but also as an expression of our own personality, be it to demonstrate belonging or, conversely, to set ourselves apart from others. Like "old skins", the items of clothing bear witness to past stages of life and the changing exterior as a mirror of an inner transformation.

The four new series of works in the exhibition "On Thresholds and Boundaries" invite us to consider everyday life and artistic practice as a constant confrontation with dualities, be it between inside and outside, consciousness and dream, or collective power and individual fragility. Each artistic position offers a unique perspective on the complexity of human experience and shows that our existence often lies on the threshold between different worlds and perceptions.

For image and press inquiries, please contact David Khalat at info@vfo.ch.