

Group Exhibition



Opening Thursday, 25 April 2024, 6 PM

Exhibition until 2 June 2024

City SALTS, Hauptstrasse 12, 4127 Birsfelden/Basel

## **Maya Hottarek, Uriel Orlow, Dorian Sari – What Are We Doing?**

Group show with works by Maya Hottarek, Uriel Orlow, and Dorian Sari & Climate Strike activists, as well as additional texts by Ariane Koch and Caroline Emcke

The exhibition brings together perspectives that address climate change in very different ways. The title of the exhibition is taken from Dorian Sari's film shown in the exhibition:

[Dorian Sari & Climate Strike Activists: What Are We Doing? Art in the face of Climate Change 2024](#)  
55', DCP, E / Untertitel, 2024

Climate activists worldwide are resorting to increasingly radical measures, not sparing the realms of art, targeting artworks themselves: soup for Van Gogh, the hammer for Velazquez. "What are we doing?" asks artist Dorian Sari. In 2022, the people of Basel voted to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to net zero by 2037, setting an example for the entire country. What are we doing to ensure that the cultural capital of Basel fulfills its responsibility, that art institutions drive change, serve as a model in crisis, offer hope against future anxieties? «What Are We Doing? Art in the face of climate change» is a discussion between Dorian Sari & climate activists with museum directors Elena Filipovic and Josef Helfenstein, as well as Beat Jans, then President of the Basel government, and today Federal Councilor, featuring climate activists Anatol Bosshard, Helma Pöppel, and Benjamin Rytz, and Paris-based curator Théo-Mario Coppola. Co-directed by Dorian Sari and Io Bauer.

[Dorian Sari: Silence=Death, Poster, 2023](#)

The poster references the 1987 political poster by the «Silence=Death» project, which protested the US government's handling of the HIV epidemic. Sari appropriated it, replacing the pink triangle with a green circle symbolizing the climate crisis. This highlights the ongoing disregard for climate change by those in power, paralleling the inaction during the HIV epidemic. Sari adapted the original text structure to address current issues, urging action against environmental threats.

[Uriel Orlow: 188 years, Single channel video, 188', 2021-2024](#)

The video is «188 years» consists of a sequence of monochrome coloured screens that represent the average annual temperature in Switzerland from 1835 to 2022, showing the evolution of warming temperatures over the last 188 years. The colours are based on the climate stripes developed by Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading, UK and move through different shades of blue, orange and red making the progressive heating of our planet plapable.

[Maya Hottarek: Soft Radiation 3, Glazed ceramic, blown glass, lightbulb, cord, cable, 2021](#)

«Soft Radiation 3» emerges as a suspended cavern, resembling a cocoon, a secluded cell. It stands as a floating shrine, a sanctuary amidst the expanse of space. The sculpture offers refuge, a haven of safety, while remaining open and linked to the world outside, its transparency revealing the connection. At its center, a flame flickers, akin to a hearth, a heart, radiating warmth and gentle light, its glow reaching beyond our sight, penetrating the depths of our being.

[Maya Hottarek, Suck my dick & Suck my dick 2, Ceramics and steel, 2022](#)

A piece proposed for the exhibition by the artist depicts two ceramic hands mounted on opposite walls, incessantly pointing at each other with their long index fingers. These bony, cartoonishly distorted fingers constantly shifting responsibility onto each other, assigning blame.

**The exhibition is supported by Abteilung Kulturförderung BL and Carbotech AG | Umwelt, Nachhaltigkeit, Schadstoffberatung. Special thanks to Ariane Koch & Matthias Oppliger.**

## **Texts in the exhibition**

Carolin Emcke: Was wahr ist. Über Gewalt und Klima [S. 101]. Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 2024

In Caroline Emcke's plea for the ethics of storytelling and thinking in utopias, the search for truth in the face of the climate crisis must embark in various directions. Looking backward: What has happened? And looking forward: What will be. It must open and map out spaces of possibility. It must narrate what we can hope for. Carolin Emcke was honoured with the Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels in 2016.

Ariane Koch: Wer ist Walter. Ein Theaterstück [S. 38]. Felix Bloch Erben Verlag, Berlin 2014; Theater Bonn, 2018; Theater Winkelwiese, Zürich 2022

In her second theatrical work, the award-winning Basel-based author Ariane Koch explores the mechanisms of modern myths. The utopia at the very end of the play takes the tendency to want to merge with nature to the extreme. Koch describes the play as follows: «It's a growing refusal to work. There are statements about the frantic pace of this world or work environment, and the desire to become a plant, even to the point of sexual fantasies involving plants.»

## **Uriel Orlow (\*Zürich / Lissabon, London and Zürich)**

Uriel Orlow (\*1973 ZH) – PhD in Fine Art from the University of the Arts, London, Slade School of Art London, University of Geneva, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, London – explores spatial manifestations of memory, social and ecological justice, blind spots in representation, and plants as political actors and witnesses of climate change. He interconnects installation, photography, film, drawing, and sound. Orlow studied art, aesthetics, and philosophy in London and Geneva, earning his doctorate from the University of the Arts in London. His works have been exhibited at the 54th Venice Biennale, Manifesta 9 and 12 in Genk/Palermo, as well as biennials in Berlin, Dakar, Taipei, Sharjah, Moscow, Kathmandu, Guatemala, and many others. They have been shown at Tate London, Whitechapel Gallery, ICA, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and more. Uriel Orlow is the recipient of the Swiss Grand Prix Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2023.

## **Maya Hottarek (\*Chironico 1990 / Biel and Basel)**

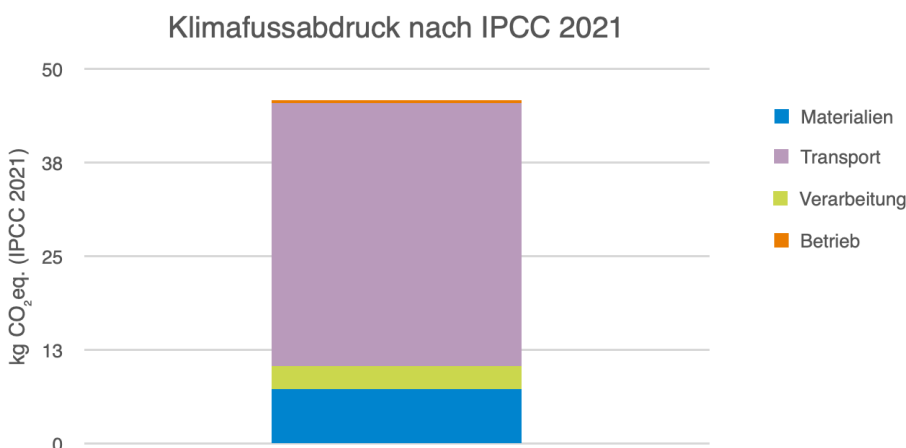
Maya Hottarek is a multimedia artist working with ceramics, film, sound and found materials. In much of her work individual elements function as characters. The artist explores the complex interactions between the individual, society and the economy. She connects all of these themes to our fundamental needs as human beings, such as a connection to nature and a philosophical question of the nature of existence. Inspired by everyday life, Hottarek attempts to filter out its simplicity. As a result she aims to open up new dimensions of understanding of reality and question the notion of perception itself. Maya creates uncanny and visceral ceramic objects incarnating everyday objects and organic forms, exploring our relationship with the natural and human-made world we live in. Recent solo shows include Oxidiced niche, Liste art Fair, Petri dish dream, A.Romy Gallery, or Krone/Couronne. Group shows include It won't besilence, CAN, Neuchatel and Issue de secours, Stiftung Binz39, Zurich and Intelleaks, N/A/S/L, Mexico City. Maya obtained a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from the University of applied Sciences, Bern in 2016, and a Master's degree in Fine Art from the Institut Art Gender Nature in Basel.

## **Dorian Sari (\*Izmir 1989 / Basel and Geneva)**

Dorian Sari is an observer of politics, emotions, and social movements, with a focus on exploring human nature. Through film, photography, and installation, Sari transforms personal and collective mythologies into fictional, theatrical, and cinematic scenes, drawing parallels between the conscious and the collective unconscious. Dorian Sari studied fine arts in Geneva and Basel, as well as politics, languages, and literature at the Sorbonne in Paris. Sari has been honored with the Manor Art Prize, the Swiss Art Award, and the Kiefer Hablitzel Prize. Their works have been Their works have been exhibited at renowned institutions such as the Kunstmuseum Basel, Centre Culturel Suisse Paris, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Helmhaus Zurich, Kunsthalle Basel, among others. Sari resides and works between Basel and Geneva.

Klimabelastung nach IPCC 2021		Anteil	Bemerkung
<b>Total</b>	45.89 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	100.0%	
<b>Materialien</b>	7.33 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	16.0%	Ton, Glas, Glühbirne
<b>Verarbeitung</b>	3.10 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	6.8%	Heizen Keramikofen
<b>Transport</b>	35.08 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	76.4%	Mit dem Auto von Biel nach Basel (98km); Annahme Fahrt nur wegen Kunstwerk
<b>Betrieb</b>	0.38 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	0.8%	Glühbirne während 152 Stunden (4h à 38 Tage)

Check 100%



	Produkt oder Aktivität (Schweizer Verhältnisse)	Menge, die ungefähr 1 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq entspricht
Verkehr	Autofahrt (mit durchschnittlicher Auslastung von 1.6 Personen)	3.1 km
	Zugfahrt mit SBB Regionalzug	100 km
	Flugreise innerhalb Europas	5 km
Kleidung und Hygiene	T-Shirt aus Baumwolle	62 % eines T-Shirts
	Seife	420 g
	WC-Papier (FSC)	6.4 Rollen
Papier	Grafisches Recyclingpapier 80g/m <sup>2</sup>	270 Blatt Papier A4
	Grafisches FSC-Papier 80g/m <sup>2</sup>	200 Blatt Papier A4
Nahrungsmittel	Rindfleisch	37 g
	Brot	1'250 g
	Bier	1.6 L
	Kaffee	24 Tassen Lungo
	Zucker	2.3 kg
Elektrizität	Nutzung Laptop	42 h
	Licht einer 6 Watt LED (entspr. 60 W Glühbirne)	1.8 Monate
	CH Strom-Mix, ab Steckdose	8 kWh
Wärme	Heizen mit Gas	0.41 m <sup>3</sup> Erdgas
	Heizen mit Öl	270 g Heizöl
Lebensstil	Zeitraum, in welchem eine Person im Durchschnitt 1 kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq generiert	ca. 42 min