

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE

Anne Rochat. In Corpore Prix culturel Manor Vaud 2020 11.12.2020. – 14.2.2021

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1. Press release

Winner of the 2020 Manor Vaud Culture Prize, Anne Rochat (b.1982 in the Joux Valley; lives and works in Berlin) unfolds a panorama of her work from the last ten years in the MCBA Espace Projet.

Expressed mainly as performances worked out in response to given contexts and spaces, the artist's practice involves, as she puts it, "the sensory experience of displacement, of discomfort, the exotic, the disturbing or the surprising, and then the attempt to recreate the substance of all that in a form made flesh in a body – usually my own." While some of the videos shown in the exhibition space are the record of performances that were originally given in front of an audience and are experienced here in deferred fashion, others, made by the artist alone under the name of her alter ego, *Doris Magico*, were produced directly for the camera. Anne Rochat is therefore bringing together in this single exhibition space geographical locations ranging from Latin America to China, from India to the Joux Valley, condensing into the short time of the exhibition space the long development of her performative practice.

The renewal of the videos every three weeks lends the show its rhythm, with the montage of images playing out in a long timeframe and underscoring the importance of processes, flows, and movements in the artist's work. Through the three sequences that constitute the exhibition, visitors thus follow the development of this twofold persona, Anne Rochat and her alter ego *Doris Magico*, who measures herself in a solitary relation to the world in order to experience its possibilities and impossibilities, while putting her own endurance to the test. The artist's body becomes the instrument that enables her to both closely listen to the world and resonate with it.

A selection of videos from the five chapters of the *Doris Magico* cycle of performances is presented here. The opening and closing chapters (*Doris Magico*, 2009 and *Exit-Doris Magico*, 2020) were both made in Lausanne, while the others were shot in India, at Varanasi, (*Doris Magico – Made in India*, 2011), and in China, one in the vast Lake Qinghai region (*Doris Magico – Back to the Wall*, 2018), the other in the urban environment of Chongqing (*Doris Magico's Nose is Facing Chongqing*, 2019).

While *Doris Magico's* performances usually consist of simple, short-lived solo actions recorded by a fixed camera, grounded in a place but seemingly existing in a suspended time, the performances put on by the artist in her own name work with long timeframes, their duration measured on the scale of the spaces she moves – walks or swims – through, or in terms of the transformation of matter by the action of the body as it works with or pushes against it.

For example, in *3mat* (2015) the artist swims the length of Lake Joux, covering a distance of thirteen kilometers in four and a half hours one cold September night, a performance that was beamed live to the Centre culturel Suisse in Paris. In *Hic & Nunc* (2018) she walks across the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia, covering the hundred and twenty kilometers of the world's biggest salt flat in twenty-four hours, including a night with a full moon over the landscape. In contrast, *Messaline* (2012) sees Rochat hanging from the ceiling in a harness attached to a fixed point, holding on to rings with her hands. In the course of the

performance, the stem wine glasses that constitute her dress fall to the floor and shatter. Likewise, in *Obsidian* (2017) the artist sits naked on the floor, holding close a block of ice for fifty minutes. Here it is the endurance of her almost immobile body, its silent, radical impact when confronted with matter, that defines the time of the performance, rather than the space that the body physically traverses.

Exhibition curator: Nicole Schweizer, curator of contemporary art

Exhibition dates: 11.12.2020 – 14.2.2021

The exhibition's three screening phases:

Video program 1: 11 December 2020 – 3 January 2021

Video program 2: 5 January – 24 January 2021

Video program 3: 26 January – 14 February 2021

The Manor Vaud Culture Prize

Created in 1982 to foster young Swiss talents, the Manor Culture Prize is awarded every two years by a jury. For the Manor Vaud Culture Prize, artists are chosen from a selection nominated by MCBA. Awarded at a key moment in the career of an emerging artist, the prize gives their work a decisive boost and thus helps to promote the contemporary art scene in Vaud.

The jury for the 2020 Manor Vaud Culture Prize

Olivier Kaeser, art historian, exhibition curator

Pierre André Maus, Maus Frères SA

Chantal Prod'Hom, director of mudac, Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains, Lausanne

Anne-Julie Raccoursier, artist

Samuel Schellenberg, journalist, arts editor of *Le Courrier* newspaper

MANOR[®]



Catalogue

Nicole Schweizer (ed.), *Anne Rochat. In Corpore*, with contributions by Olivier Kaeser and Jean Rochat

Jointly published by Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts of Lausanne and art&fiction publications, Lausanne, 2020 (Fr./Eng.), 144 p., 95 ill.

Price: CHF 35.- (CHF 30.- during the exhibition)

Available from the MCBA Book- and Giftshop:

→ shop.mcba@vd.ch

3. Media images

The images of the installation are available here, www.mcba.ch/presse

The images are duty free for the duration of the exhibitions. Any reproduction of them must mention the following: name of the museum, author(s), title of the work of art and name of the photographer, and the copyright.

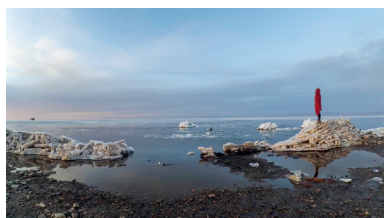
Other indications (dimensions, techniques, date, etc.) are welcome but not obligatory. Once the document is published, we would be grateful if a copy was sent to the museum's press department: Service de presse, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne.



1.
Anne Rochat, *Blumer*, 2010
Performance
La Piscine, Orbe
© Geoffrey Cottenceau



2.
Anne Rochat, *Messaline*, 2012
Performance
40 ans du Prix culturel Manor
Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau
© Jean Rochat



3.
Anne Rochat, *Sans titre* (from the *Doris Magico –Back to the Wall* series of video performances), 2017
Video, color, sound
Qinghai Lake
© Anne Rochat



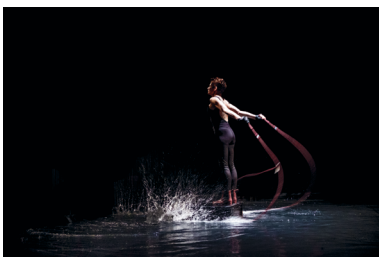
4.
Anne Rochat, *Anarctic*, 2018
Video, color, sound
Arctic Action Festival, Pyramiden, Svalbard Archipelago
© Anne Rochat



5.
Anne Rochat, *Hic & Nunc* (video performance), 2018
Video, color, sound
Salar de Uyuni
© Anne Rochat



6.
Anne Rochat, *Spider* (from the *Doris Magico's Nose is Facing Chongqing* series of video performances), 2019
Video, color, sound
Chongqing
© Anne Rochat



7.
Anne Rochat, *Laniakea*, 2020
Performance
Arsenic, Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne
© Sarah Anthony



8.
Installation view / Espace Projet Anne RoCHAT. *In Corpore* (Manor Vaud Culture Prize 2020) © MCBA, Nora Rupp



9.
Installation view / Espace Projet Anne RoCHAT. *In Corpore* (Manor Vaud Culture Prize 2020) © MCBA, Nora Rupp

3. Artist's biography

Anne Rochat was born in the Joux Valley, Switzerland, in 1982. A graduate of ECAL, the École cantonale d'art of Lausanne, she lives and works in Berlin. Since 2018 she has been in charge of the Performance Unit at EDHEA, the École de design et Haute école d'art of Valais.

www.annerochat.com



Photo : François Bovy

GRANTS, RESIDENCIES AND PRIZES

2019

2020 Manor Vaud Cultural Prize

2018

Residency at the Open Studio de Casa Suiza de La Boca en Proa21, Buenos Aires, within the framework of the Conference of Swiss cities for culture

Supported by the Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art (2018–20)

2016

Research trip to Cambodia and Indonesia

2015

Research trip to Colombia, Bolivia and Chile

2014

Fondation Irène Reymond Prize

2013

Swiss Art Awards

2012

Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize, Fondation Ernst Göhner

Residency at the Swiss Institute in Rome

2011

Visual arts grant of the Canton de Vaud

Residency in Varanasi within the framework of the Conference of Swiss cities for culture

2010

Cultural grant from the Fondation Leenaards

Swiss Art Awards

2009

Research trip to Madagascar

2004-2005

Research trip to Asia

PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS

2020

Hic & Nunc, Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing

Messaline, Festival de La Bâtie, Villa du Parc, Annemasse

Laniakea, with Laurent Bruttin, Ariel Garcia, Will Guthrie and Julie Semoroz, Arsenic, Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne

Doris Magico, *Back to the Wall*, series of video performances, Éditions Naima, Paris-Berlin

2019

Medium is the Message, Surplus Space, Wuhan

2018

Open Studio, Studio de Casa Suiza de La Boca en Proa21, Buenos Aires

Anarctic, Arctic Action Festival, Pyramiden, Svalbard Archipelago

Flu.o, Arsenic, Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne; Centre culturel suisse, Paris

Hic & Nunc and *Topo*, Arsenic, Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne

2017

Obsidian, BONE Performance Art Festival, Berne; Fierce Festival, Birmingham

Redwoods, with Elisabeth de Merode, Fonderie Kugler, Genève

To tu, to tam, PLATEFORME 10, Lausanne

Cycle de 5 performances on Swiss and European politics, Counter Space, Zurich

2016

Bubble and Water Walk, with Laurent Bruttin, Live Action, International Performance Festival, Gothenburg

2015

Quoique je fasse, je proteste, Théâtre de l'Usine, Genève ; Café-Théâtre Le Bourg, Lausanne

Ballon & Bas résille, during the exhibition *Experience of Immobility. 20 Years of Performance Acts*, Le Commun, Geneva; Alpina Huus, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin

Wandering, BONE Performance Art Festival, Bern

3mat and *Klingende Nacht*, as part of *PerformanceProcess, une approche de la performance en Suisse dès 1960*, Centre culturel suisse, Paris

2014

Knot, 10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai; Live Art Performance Festival, Guangzhou

Conversation Piece, Fonds municipal d'art contemporain, Genève

Équinoxe, as part of *Nuit blanche*, Paris, Centre culturel suisse, Paris

Lifes Twists, IPA Art Festival, Istanbul

Noumène, Rolex Learning Center, École polytechnique fédérale of Lausanne, Lausanne

Déchirure, Waisenhausplatz, Droit sans frontières, Bern

Say Yes or Die, performance tour in South Africa, Infecting the City – Public Arts Festival, Le Cap

2013

We Suisse #2, Besançon Réseau Art Contemporain, Besançon
Vortex, finale of the Swiss performance, Kaserne Basel, Basel
Ballet d'assises, United Nations Organization building, Geneva
Sitting on the Lines, Romanian Academy in Rome

2012

Messaline, 40 ans du Prix culturel Manor, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau
Tupada, Action and Media Art, tournée de performances, Philippines
Pull the Strings, Circuit, Centre d'art contemporain, Lausanne
Say Yes or Die, Maison Baron, Genève ; Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts of Lausanne ; Espace d'art
New Jersey, Basel; Centre culturel suisse, Paris; 5th Biennale Muv'Art de Maputo, Maputo
Jean Jean, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern; Stadtgalerie, Bern; Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus

2011

Quoi que vous m'ayez donné la nuit passée, en avez-vous encore plus?, 40th Festival de la Cité,
Lausanne
Doris Magico Next, Varanasi
60 volt, Espace d'art Agent double, Geneva
Room 106, Hôtel à la Gare, Lausanne

2010

Blumer, Accademia di architettura, Mendrisio

2009

Déchirure, Stadtgalerie, Bern; La Piscine, Orbe
Maritime Chronicles #3, Darb 17 18, Cairo; Festival Les Urbaines, Lausanne
Dérive, Swiss Church, London

4. Artist's statement

Anne Rochat – *Elsewhere, my approach* (Berlin, November 2020)

“bash burn float sparkle shine sparkle burn sting twist squeeze graze sting shine sparkle graze sparkle
bash sparkle shine burn graze squeeze sparkle twist squeeze bash shine sparkle burn sparkle shine
I've never understood
what it is I'm not supposed to feel
like a bird on the wing in a swollen sky
my mind is torn by lightning
as it flies from the thunder behind.”
Sarah Kane, *4.48 Psychosis*, 2001¹

I define my practice as a total artistic approach, based on a distancing of my experience of the everyday, of the world. In concrete terms, for example, the idea is to maintain a constant sense of disquiet and surprise, by means of perpetual geographic movement that always puts me in the position of a stranger, a strangeness. A nomadic artist in a state of perpetual inconstancy who desires to live the absolute in every moment, I engage in radical actions that blur the distinctions between body and mind, and seek to live for a few moments in a state of suspension, in a constant quest.

From the outset, my artistic work has been motivated and nourished by *situations*. My places of residence, which for the last twelve years have been temporary, have always been the essence and object of my work. Fundamentally, my practice is about the sensory experience of displacement, of discomfort, the exotic, the disturbing, or the surprising, and then the attempt to recreate the substance of all that in a form made flesh in a body – usually my own.

In recent years, these ideas have led me to create and experience performances in a number of places around the world, including, Cairo, India, South Africa, Mozambique, and Turkey, in the Philippines and in Cambodia, with an emphasis over the last three years on China and its extremes of megacity and desert. These projects have been presented in several artistic institutions in Europe (Centre culturel suisse in Paris, Aargauer Kunsthaus in Aarau, Fierce Festival in Birmingham, the Swiss Institute of Rome where I was in residence for a year), and Asia (Red Brick Art Museum in Beijing, Shanghai Biennale).

Both generally speaking and in each of these experiences, my work draws on both the “structural” components of the place – colonial past, apartheid regime, caste system – and on the specific situations in which I was immersed: religious tensions, powerful (geo)political factors, the radical questioning of identities. These were the circumstances that gave rise to *Shemale, Water Walk, Say Yes or Die* (with Gilles Furtwängler and Sarah Antony), and *Doris Magico*.

These experiences of the unusual and the strange have been interspersed with trips back to Switzerland where I strove to bring this surprised gaze to bear on what strikes me as natural, on what

¹Sarah Kane, *4.48 Psychosis*, London: Methuen, 2001

is immediately invisible – sometimes indifferent – to me because it is common. It was on the occasion of these returns that I put on *Messaline, Ballon & Bas résille* (with Julian Sartorius), *Hic & Nunc* (with Laurent Bruttin and Ariel Garcia for the music, François Bovy and Juan David Suarez for the image capture), *Laniakea* (with Laurent Bruttin, Ariel Garcia, Will Guthrie, and Julie Semoroz, for the music) or again *3mat* in the Joux Valley, where I grew up and spent the first sixteen years of my life.

We all have our particular place. For some, it's writing, for others, the home. For myself, I could say that my place is *Elsewhere*. This open-air laboratory provides the disorientation that is essential for me to conceive an artistic project.

5. Public engagement – Public outreach services

Reservations mandatory (limited places): mcba.ch/agenda

Guided tour (by reservation only, free admission)

Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 12:30 pm

By Nicole Schweizer, curator of the exhibition

6. Museum services

Book- and Giftshop

In the MCBA Book- and Giftshop you can find books on all of the shows currently on view, and a selection of publications on artists in the collection, the history of art and techniques and mediums, books for children, along with a range of items (notebooks, jewelry, scarves, pencils, etc.).

Hours: Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun.: 10 am – 6 pm / Thurs.: 10 am – 8 pm / Mon. closed

Café-restaurant *Le Nabi*

Before or after your visit, Le Nabi invites you to take a break. The menu, reflecting the open, welcoming spirit of our museum, is both family oriented and refined. Drinks are all artisanal and the menu emphasizes local products that change with the seasons.

Hours: Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun.: 10 am – 6 pm / Thurs.: 10 am – 8 pm / Mon. closed

Reservations: T. 021 311 02 90 / info@lenabi.ch

7. MCBA partners and sponsors

The MCBA building was inaugurated on 5 April 2019. The museum's new premises were built by the canton of Vaud with the generous support of the City of Lausanne and the following private partnerships:

Fondation Les Mûrons

Loterie Romande



Fondation Anita et Werner Damm-Etienne

BCV



Fondation Gandur pour l'Art



Audemars Piguet



Madame Alice Pauli

Fondation Ernst Göhner



Nestlé



Fondation Art et Vie

Philip Morris International



ECA – Établissement cantonal d'assurance



Abakanowicz art and culture charitable foundation

Fondation Payot



Association rétrospective Pierrette Gonseth-Favre