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**Kunsthalle
Friart
Fribourg**

Sacred Threads
2.MAR – 28.APR.2024

PARKing CHANce
Mira Mann
Ana Mendieta
Pamela Rosenkranz
Jura Shust

Exhibition guide

EXHIBITION TEXT

From our governance structures and languages to ceremonies and relationships between nature and technology, the exhibition *Sacred Threads* draws narratives that connect us to our past, future, and sense of identity. It presents artists from different continents with distinct cosmologies and transcendental cultures that explore how ancestral knowledge, through our relationship to nature, has evolved and continues to influence our lives, values, emotions, and art.

A telling example of the human-nature relationship comes from Slavic culture and mythology, where the forest holds a sacred and divine significance—serving as a connection between the physical and spiritual realms. Jura Shust, an artist born in Belarus, explores the symbolism of death and the transformative process that takes place in nature. According to Slavic beliefs, the spirits of the deceased reside within coniferous trees that act as vessels for their souls. These trees are seen as living beings with resin flowing, like blood, through their veins. However, when the tree is continuously cut into to collect resin for industrial use, as seen in the work *Two or Three Girths Wide*, it dies, causing the spruce tree to lose its needles as the spirit leaves. Shust's works depict a complex symbiosis between life and death, exploring the eternal renewal cycle through the decomposition of organic matter.

Ana Mendieta's work reminds us of the emotional bond between the self and the environments we grew up in, affecting both our physical and mental relationship with nature, especially when we are uprooted. Personal attachment to a place is closely related to our connection for the land and sense of responsibility we carry for it. Mendieta's life and work give way to the emotional ties to the landscape, a reflection of her Afro-Cuban and indigenous traditions, which is further accentuated by her experiences of displacement. Mendieta's first trip back to Cuba after her immigration to the United States resulted in the creation of her *Escuturas Rupestres* series. Inspired by indigenous female deities, the images portray the artist's abstracted spiritual figure carvings in the limestone caves of her home country, which demonstrate an additional testament to the deep emotional and spiritual ethos of her practice.

Identity can be described as a sense of self, always built in relation to our environment, for instance, people, plants, animals, and the terrain, but also generational conflicts, politics, and technology. The work of PARKing CHANce and Mira Mann explores the impact of globalization and rapid modernization on Korean culture and identity. The film *Night Fishing* by PARKing CHANce depicts the portrait of a South Korean society filled with tension, hopes, and renunciation. It highlights the effects of cultural disconnection amid post-colonial upheavals, while portraying shamanism and folk beliefs as sacred and integral to Korea's cultural identity. Whereas, Mira Mann, born and raised in Germany, merges Korean folklore with elements of Western European culture and contemporary art. They use musical storytelling (pansori) and shamanistic motifs to explore complex issues of identity and heritage in a rapidly changing world. By reinterpreting historic traditions and linking them with new ones, Mann offers a glimpse into transcultural influences and addresses social and gender dynamics across generations.

Beyond forming the foundations of identity at the base of our societies, the ever-changing notion of nature is redefined by new concepts throughout religion, science, art, and technology. Pamela Rosenkranz's works challenge our perception of the natural world in the digital era, highlighting the blurred lines between the real and the artificial. In her series *Healer Scrolls*, she employs signs full of references—"snakeskin" for instance—to bridge the gap between nature's uncontrollable forces and human belief systems. The snake is a symbol present in many, if not all, cultures. With associations ranging from health and healing, to life and death, the snake is also synonymous with both benevolent and malicious rituals. The snakeskin pattern, realized through cuts in paper, evokes the dual role of the skin—both protection from the environment and its ability to absorb it.

BIOGRAPHIES

Park Chan-wook (1963, Korea)—a renowned Korean film director known for *Oldboy* and *Decision to Leave*—and **Park Chan-kyong (1965, Korea)**, an award-winning media artist—started their collaboration in 2011 with the short film *Night Fishing*. This project marked the beginning of the artistic collective PARKing CHANce, a combination of their first and last names PARK and CHAN. Park Chan-wook's ground-breaking plots and sensual mise en scène combine with Park Chan-kyong's intellectual and experimental images found in his visual art pieces.

Mira Mann's (1993, Germany) practice includes time based and site specific modes of working, moving image, and cross-media settings in which they explore fictional spaces and storytelling as a medium for visualizing social structures, collective memory, and new narratives within the play of identities. Their discursive scenographies evolve around transcultural relations of human and non-human agents and the glitches they generate between experience and memory, reality and fiction. Recent exhibitions include *Frac Île-de-France, les Réserves & Fondation Fiminco (2023)*, *N/A (2023)*, *Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und WesWalen (2023)*. Mira Mann is represented by Galerie DREI in Cologne.

Ana Mendieta (1948, Cuba–1985, USA). In a brief yet prolific career, the Cuban-born artist Ana Mendieta created groundbreaking work in photography, film, video, drawing, sculpture, and site-specific installations. Amongst the major themes in her work are exile, displacement, and a return to the landscape. Her unique hybrid of form and documentation works that she titled *siluetas* are fugitive and potent traces of the artist's inscription of her body in the landscape, often transformed by natural elements such as fire and water.

Pamela Rosenkranz (1979, Switzerland) explores perception through sculpture, video, installation, and painting, emphasizing the impact of biochemical processes on our understanding of the environment. Blending digital and physical realms, her work reveals adaptations in everyday life, blurring the lines between nature and artificiality. Pamela Rosenkranz has exhibited at renowned institutions such as the High Line in New York (2023), Robert Walser-Zentrum in Bern (2022), Kunsthaus Bregenz (2021), and many more. She is represented by Karma International, Sprüth Magers, and Miguel Abreu galleries.

Jura Shust (1983, Belarus) explores the connection between ritual and escapism. His work combining sculpture, video, and installation redefines spiritual ecology. He is influenced by scientific research and blends archaic and futuristic perspectives to create mental landscapes. Jura Shust's work is informed by ethnoreligious beliefs and biopolitical intentions. He has exhibited worldwide, including at the Museum of Contemporary Art GFZK in Leipzig (2022), the Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe (2021), and the Contemporary Art Museum S.M.A.K. in Ghent (2014). He is represented by the gallery Management in New York.

Curated by

Olga Generalova (1986, Belarus) is co-founder and curator of the independent exhibition space Sentiment in Zurich.

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♥ **MERCI**
♥ **DANKE**
♥ **THANK YOU**



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DURING THE EXHIBITION

OPENING
1.MAR.2024, 18:00

PERFORMANCES AND CONVERSATIONS
SURROUNDING SACRED THREADS
23.MAR, 15-19:00

EXTRA MUROS PROJECTION AU CINÉMATOGAPHE, LAUSANNE
SKY HOPINKA
MAŁNI—TOWARDS THE OCEAN, TOWARDS THE SHORE, 2020
26.MAR, 20:30

GUIDED TOURS — VISITE DES AMI.E.S
WITH/AVEC OLGA GENERALOVA
AND NICOLAS BRULHART
FOLLOWED BY FRIBAR
20.APR, 19-0:00

COMPLETE PROGRAM
WWW.FRIART.CH

KUNSTHALLE FRIART FRIBOURG

NICOLAS BRULHART, ESTELLE NEGRO, SACHA RAPPO, MAX HAURI, MAXIME PAPAUX, VIOLETTE MARBACHER, FANNY DELARZE/KOLLEKTIV ORTIE, PIERRICK BRÉGEON/EUROSTANDARD, FABIAN STÜCHELI, LUCIEN MOSER, ANNE SUDAN, FLAVIO DA SILVA, GUILLAUME BAERISWYL, ANJA DELZ, JACK SIMS, ATELIER 48, CLÉMENCE DE WECK AND THE COMMITTEE OF FRI-ART, THE FRIENDS OF FRIART, RECEPTION STAFF, CONCEIÇÃO SILVA CARVALHO, ALIONA CAZACU

THANKS

NICOLAS BRULHART, MIRA MANN, PAMELA ROSENKRANZ, JURA SHUST, PARK CHAN-WOOK, PARK CHAN-KYONG, THE ESTATE OF ANA MENDIETA, GALERIE LELONG & CO., DREI COLOGNE, KARMA INTERNATIONAL, KUKJE GALLERY, PHILÉMON OTTH, BRIT BARTON, BEA ORLANDI, VITALIY AND NELLY GENERALOVA, PATRICIA DOMÍNGUEZ, CLAUDIA BLIN, MARIE GYGER, SACHA RAPPO, MAX HAURI, VIOLETTE MARBACHER, PIERRICK BRÉGEON, FABIAN STÜCHELI, LUCIEN MOSER, ANNE SUDAN, FLAVIO DA SILVA, MAHF

OPENING HOURS

MO-TUE BY APPOINTMENT
WED-FRI 12AM-6PM
SAT-SUN 1-6PM