

PRESS RELEASE

MURATCENTOVENTIDUE ARTECONTEMPORANEA

Clouds

Georgie Friedman, Almut Linde, Sissa Micheli, Marie-Luce Nadal, Ursula Palla

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present ***Clouds***, a group exhibition featuring works by Georgie Friedman, Almut Linde, Sissa Micheli, Marie-Luce Nadal, Ursula Palla.

In meteorology a cloud is a hydrometeor made up of minute particles of condensed water and/or ice crystals, suspended in the atmosphere usually not in contact with the ground.

Considering clouds as mere natural phenomena could actually be a great limit. Clouds have always fascinated man and the theme of clouds, present in iconography since ancient times, has been a great source of inspiration over the centuries, especially in painting and photography.

In particular, in the 1800s landscape painting experienced a period of great splendour and, within this genre, artists paid increasing attention to the motif of clouds: these strange and elusive formations that appear as carriers of emotions capable of hypnotizing the man who projects his dreams and fantasies into them.

In the 21st century they continue to fascinate many artists, while environmental and political issues also come into play. In some works, masses of clouds appear out of control, they are caused either by natural or man-made disasters, such as exhaust fumes and atomic explosions.

In the context of globalization, virtualization, the cloud is now emerging as a model to describe the complexity of contemporary relationships. It is becoming a symbol of networked information architecture, geopolitical relations and new concepts of space.

Georgie Friedman (USA) is an interdisciplinary artist whose projects include large-scale video installations, single and multi-channel videos and several photographic series. She is interested in our psychological and societal relationships to mild and severe natural phenomena. She investigates a wide range of powerful atmospheric and oceanic conditions, and is fascinated by the power of these natural elements in relationship to human fragility. She utilizes photography, video, sound, installation, engineering and the physics of light, all in order to create new experiences for viewers.

"Sky Study II, Gray on Gray" allows for real-time, close observations of the subtle details and tonal shifts of storm clouds; something which people may think are homogeneous.

The artist reveals about her work: "I've often thought about how to film fog (low lying clouds) obscuring a view in relation to the idea of "absence" or "invisibility" without having to reveal what it is obscuring.

As one avenue of approaching this idea, "Sky Study II, Gray on Gray" focuses on the layering and movement of the thick gray clouds, which have form in relation to the light and particles around them, yet never reveal the blue sky."

Almut Linde (*1965 in Lübeck) works with people and social systems. Working with others in areas that do not, at first glance, seem to have any sort of artistic potential, she develops performances that result in videos, photographs, sculptures, and installations. Her works go beyond mere exposure or documentation

to raise fundamental questions about human existence, such as the difference between individual autonomy and structural conditions in social systems. The artist works within her concept of Radical Beauty. The radical approach is to redirect the concept of beauty back to the roots of form. It makes it possible to put things that we cannot or do not want to see into the space of the observable. The most crucial aspect of her work is to deal with reality directly and without detours.

In *Sea of Clouds/29.3 Tons CO2* a sea of clouds in front of a blue sky reveals its origin after a few seconds. The likeness to a beautiful sea of clouds from idyllic landscape painting collides with the knowledge of its origin. According to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register the city of Grevenbroich tops the chart of the ten dirtiest cities in Europe. Generating electricity from brown coal is among the dirtiest technologies, with the highest CO2 emissions.

The expressive research of **Sissa Micheli**, an artist from Alto Adige, who lives and works in Vienna, revolves around the still and moving image, utilising all means of photography, video and installation. Her works are typically linked to particularly topical themes and to observations of reality that the artist translates into metaphors, highlighting the limits of our functional system to stimulate a critical analysis of our society.

The three photographs shown here are part of the photo and video project „**MOUNTAIN PIECES. Reflecting History**“ which deals with the theme of war and peace. In these works, in which the clouds envelop the landscape or partially hide it, enhancing its beauty, the attention is not focused only on the magnificence of the Alta Pusteria mountains, but on the events that took place there about a hundred years ago: with the Italy's entry into the war in 1915, the high peaks became the front line of the First World War.

The artist goes looking for traces and subtly intervenes with mirrors and reflective surfaces, with stones, smoke signals, flags and war residues. Clouds of smoke are created in the fortifications, in the tunnels and in front of the bunker, transforming the war scenarios, elevating them to a symbolic level. The use of a reflecting mirror in the clouds refers the viewer back to him/herself, making him/her aware of his/her responsibility as a human being. „Beauty and atrocity are close here“ - underlines the artist - „It is a paradox that such a unique massif with landscapes that exude peace and tranquility could have been the stage for battles, ruin and death“. These are poignant photographic and cinematic anti-war memorials.

Marie-Luce Nadal (MLN, born in France in 1984) is a transdisciplinary eco-feminist and queer visual artist & researcher. MLN is interested in the scientific and mystical relationships that we nurture with our environment, especially with our atmosphere. MLN creates performative machine-works, which have the particularity of combining plastic singularity, scientific research and technical viability with the intention that these objects may be used or deployed by the audience.

This fascination is especially haunted by the direct impact of atmospheric phenomena. Meteorological and artistic experiences are part of Marie-Luce's universe. An organic and spiritual relationship binds her to the sky. Through modern forms of writing, embodied in movement and image, systems of projections and metonymies, through variations of scales and animated reproductions of atmospheric systems, MLN seeks to rediscover this vitality, to put it forward and to nourish it in the minds of the audience.

Faire Pleurer les Nuages (Make the Clouds Cry) is an outdoor performance created by the artist in direct continuity with her grandfather's farmer practice; cloud seeding. At dawn or dusk, after a fencing duel, the artist uses a crossbow made of steel and bra wire with breath's ammunition, sulfur and dynamite to shoot in the clouds and make the sky cry.

Ursula Palla lives and works in Zurich. After 2000 the artificiality of nature crystallizes ever more clearly as the central theme of her multimedia-based oeuvre. In the form of videos and sculptures made of bronze, which are sometimes grouped together as installations, she critically questions the appropriation and manipulation of nature by human beings.

Her works, which are preceded by well-founded research, suggest a paradisiacal state on a formal-aesthetic level. On closer inspection, the beautiful appearance falls apart at the contradictions of the details. Illusion and reality enter into a tense relationship in her works.

The artist interweaves video with spatial sculptures and works with sensitive materials such as cast sugar, coal dust, and snow in her artistic practice. An enchanting aesthetic makes this accessible on a first level. At the same time, all works are based on comprehensive research, the knowledge of which fully reveals the depth and urgency of the works. Ursula Palla's videos and spatial installations, such as "*The Wolke*" in this exhibition, are poetic and at the same time reveal empty spaces that often leave us feeling stale and remind us of our responsibility towards nature and the environment.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122 / b - Bari

Inauguration

Saturday February 25, 2023, 7.00 pm

Period

February 25 - April 15 , 2023

Opening hours

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment only

From Thursday to Saturday, from 17.30 to 20.30

Info

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<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea>

https://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue_bari

CV

GEORGIE FRIEDMAN (b. 1974) currently resides in Boston, MA and has lived, worked and exhibited throughout the U.S. She received her Masters of Fine Arts in 2008 from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University, and her Bachelors of Art in 1996 from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her current projects include several photographic series and experiential video installations that highlight our physical relationship to interior/exterior elements and uncontrollable natural forces.

Friedman has been commissioned to create site-specific video-based public art pieces and has exhibited in national and international venues including: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MA), Geneva International Film Festival (Switzerland), The Cleveland Museum of Art (OH), City Hall Park, Burlington (VT), Peabody Essex Museum (MA), Union College (NY), deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum (MA), City Hall, Boston (MA), and The Armory Center for the Arts (CA). She has been awarded a number of grants and fellowships including: Artist Traveling Fellowship to Antarctica (2017); Artist-in-Residence with The City of Boston, Boston AIR (2016); Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship in Sculpture/Installation (2013); five Public Media Art Commissions for Art on the Marquee (Boston Cyberarts/Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, 2012-2015). She teaches a variety of video and time-based art classes at several institutions, including Boston College and Massachusetts College of Art.

<http://www.georgiefriedman.com>

Almut Linde, born 1965 in Germany, lives and works in Hamburg. She is a professor at the Muthesius Kunsthochschule in Kiel and received her PhD in 2017 with her artist theory *Radical Beauty*. Solo exhibitions include *STILL ALVIVE*, PSM Berlin (2022); *BODIES*, PSM Berlin DE (2019); *TEMPORARY WHOLENESS*, Spaced Out, Kerkow, DE (2019); *RADICAL BEAUTY*, among others at Drawing Room, Hamburg (2016); Kunstverein Ruhr, Essen, DE (2015); Kunstpalais Erlangen, DE (2014), Chapter, Cardiff, GB-WLS; DA2, Salamanca, ES; Kunstverein Braunschweig DE (2013) Oberbeck-Gesellschaft Lübeck, DE (2012). Her work was included in several group shows, including *Something new, something old, something desired*,

Hamburger Kunsthalle; Homosphäre Kunsthalle Mainz (2022) ; Mindbombs Kunsthalle Mannheim (2021) ; *This is not a love song*, PSM, Berlin, DE (2019); *La cara oculta de la luna*, CentroCentro, Madrid, ES; *Lübeck sammelt*, Kunsthalle St. Annen, Lübeck, DE (2017); *Psychogeographic Junction*, Kunsthalle Bratislava/LAB, SK; *When There is Hope*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (2015); *Künstlerräume 02*, Weserburg Museum für moderne Kunst Bremen, DE (2014) *Visionen. Atmosphären der Veränderung*, Marta Herford DE (2014); *Sidewalk Deli - Apocalypse Now*, Kunstverein in Hamburg (2010); *MANSON 1969*, Hamburger Kunsthalle DE (2009). She received the Paula Modersohn Becker Art Prize 2022

<https://almutlinde.com>

SISSA MICHELI was born in 1975 in Brunico, she lives and works in Vienna.

From 1994 to 2001 she studied English and Roman Studies at the University of Vienna, where from 2000 to 2002 she attended the school of artistic photography. Then she graduated from the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. The meeting with Louise Bourgeois in New York was decisive in 2006. From 2007 to 2011 she was a teacher at the summer academy of Fine Arts in Venice. Sissa Micheli has been awarded numerous awards and scholarships, including the Vienna Academy Award in 2008 and the Pagine Bianche d'Autore Award, Milan, in 2006 the New York scholarship in 2008, the London and Paris scholarship in 2009 and 2013 and the Austrian state scholarship for artistic photography in 2015. Her work is present in many private and public collections.

She has numerous solo and group exhibitions both in Italy and abroad, including 2020 *LUMEN*, Brunico (IT), Alessandro Casciaro Gallery (IT), 2019 Maribor Photography Festival (SL), Palais Mamming Museum, Merano (IT), Oberösterreichischer Kunstverein Linz (AT), 2018 Galleria Sturm & Schöber Vienna (AT), Transart Bolzano (IT), 2017 Sotheby's Quarterly Palais Wilczek, Vienna (AT), 2015 Kunsthalle Saalfelden (AT), 2014 Austrian Cultural Forum London (GB), Museion Bolzano (IT), 2014 Künstlerhaus KM–, Halle für Kunst & Medien, Graz (AT), 2013 Merano Arte (IT), 2011 Künstlerhaus Vienna (AT), 2011 Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (AT), 2009 Fotoforum West Innsbruck (AT), 2008 MUSA Startgalerie Vienna (AT).

Among the group exhibitions: 2020 Museion, Bolzano (IT), 2019 Kunsthaus Kollitsch, Klagenfurt (AT), Künstlerforum Bonn (DE), Bocanera Art Gallery, Trento (IT), Antonio Dalle Nogare Foundation, Bolzano (IT), Musée National Dolomites, Paris (FR), Biennale Gherdeina VI, Ortisei (IT), Haus der Kunst, Baden (AT), 2017 Museum of Kymenlaakso Kotka (FIN), Kunstverein Kärnten Klagenfurt (AT), 2016 Kajaani Art Museum (FIN), Fotogalerie, Vienna (AT), 2015 Kunsthalle Bratislava (SK), Kunst Haus Wien, Vienna (AT), Galleria Luciano Fasciati, Chur (CH), 2013 Audain Gallery, Vancouver (CND), 2012 Scope Miami International Contemporary Art Show, Miami (USA) , 2011 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (F), 2010 Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, (A), Parliament, Vienna (AT), Kunstverein Freiburg (DE), 2009 Galerie 5020, Salzburg (AT), Museion Gallery, Bolzano (IT) , Spazio Gerra, Reggio Emilia (IT), 2007 Kunstraum Innsbruck (AT), 2005 Museum der Moderne Salzburg (AT).

<http://www.sissamicheli.net>

MARIE-LUCE NADAL Born in 1984, lives and work in Paris, France

Education 2017 Ph.D. EnsAD, PSL Research University, Paris, France/Practice based Ph.D. Science, Art, Creation, Recherche (SACRe)/Dissertation title: De Lents Semencements (Slow Seeding)/ Advisors: Nadeije Laneyrie Dagen (EnsAD, ENS, Art Theory) and Eduardo Wesfreid (PMMH-ESPCI, Physics)/2012 M.F.A. École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (EnsAD), Paris, France/2009 M.Arch. École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Montpellier, France/2005 B.Arch. École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Montpellier, France

Solo Shows 2021 Make the Clouds Cry, Pengerkatu7Tyohuone, Helsinki, Finland/AwE, Online exhibition, Artist with Evidence, New York City, NY, USA/2020 Accrochage, Atelier Basfroi, Paris, France/(R)éparer le Ciel, Galerie Faure Beaulieu and Galerie S35, Paris, France/2019 Open Window, Fabernovel, Private Collection, Paris, France/L'Orféo: Opéra Lurette, Musée des Abattoirs, Toulouse, France/2018 AuraFulminis 21, Galerie Hus, Paris, France/2017 Solid Precipitation, LMAK Gallery, New York City, NY, USA/De Lents Semencements, EnsAD, Paris, France/2015 La Fabrique des Nuages, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France/2014 Sur les pas d'Edgar Sibel, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

Group Shows 2022 The Gaia Hypothesis, The Elemental, Palm Springs, CA, USA/Varia, Centre d'Art Contemporain de Meymac, France/Les échos d'un temps lointain arrivent en sifflant sur le sable, Poush, Aubervilliers, France/Espace, Native Volume III, Paris, France/Novacène, UTOPIA Lille 3000, Gare Saint-Saveur, Lille, France/Art Rotterdam [fair], Galerie Bacqueville, Rotterdam, Netherlands/Hacking Identity Dancing Diversity, ZKM for Esch2022, European Culture Capital, Luxembourg/Art Paris [fair], Fondation Ruinart and Art of Change 21, Paris, France/La Matière du Monde, Galerie Municipale Jean Collet, Vitry, France/2021 Regarder vers le ciel, Galerie des Hospices, Canet en Roussillon, France/Dones, Chapelle des Armées, Amélie les Bains, France/Paradis Artificiels, Galerie Bacqueville, Lille, France/Dans l'œil de Daniel Pommereulle, Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris, France/Le Regard du Temps, CulturFoundry, Paris, France/Avalanche, PAL Project, Paris, France/Art Paris [fair], Galerie Faure Beaulieu, Paris, France/2020 Programme spécial, Poush Manifesto, Clichy, France/O.N, Octobre Numérique, Arles, France/Die Wolken und die Wolke, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany/In The Clouds, Stavanger Art Museum, Stavanger, Norway/SP Arte 2020 [fair], Luis Maluf Gallery, Sao Paulo, Brazil/2019 Negative Space, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany/Collapse, Saint Agnes Gallery, Berlin, Germany/Galeriste [fair], Galerie Faure Beaulieu, Paris, France/2018 Regarder l'agreste paysage, Afiac, France/L'intelligence du rêve, Galerie EOF, Paris, France/Vertige, Centre d'art Labanque, Béthune, France/2017 Cloud >< Forest, New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia/Co-Mutation, Maison des Arts Georges et Claude Pompidou, Cajar, France/L'éternité par les Astres, Centre d'art Les Tanneries, Amilly, France/2016 Birds and Spaces, B4belAb Gallery, Oakland, CA, USA/Lumière de l'Aube (Yoko Ono's guest), Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, France/2015 Formes Élémentaires, Planétarium de Vaulx-en-Velin, France nuits des danses perdues, Palais de Tokyo: Hors les Murs, Paris, France/Laps, Carreau de Cergy, Cergy Pontoise, France/Le parfait flâneur, Palais de Tokyo: Hors les Murs, Biennale de Lyon, France/Visions d'épigénétique, Galerie

<https://marielucenadal.com>

Ursula Palla, born in Chur Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich Switzerland,

Selected solo shows : 2022 Kunst(Zeug)Haus Rapperswil/CH, Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur/CH, Cabane Rorschacherberg/CH-2021 Sacchetti Contemporary Ascona/CH, 2020 solo show - artgenève/ GenèveCH 2020 Galerie Gisèle Linder Basel/CH 2019 Kunstraum Kreuzlingen/CH, Kunsthalle Wil/CH 2018 Historisches Museum des Kantons Aargau Schloss Hallwyl/CH und Schloss Wildegg/CH 2017 Kunstmuseum Bern/CH 2016 Galerie Sam Scherrer Zürich/CH, 2013 Museum Langmatt Baden/CH, 2011 Kunsthalle Arbon/CH 2010 Kunstraum Walcheturm Zürich/CH 2006 c-art gallery Bregenz/A, 2005 Galerie Evelyne Canus Basel/CH 2004 Kunstraum Walcheturm Zürich/CH, 2002 Kunsthalle Schaffhausen/CH 1999 Helmhaus - Zürich/CH

Selected group shows :2022 Kunstmuseum Thun/CH, Museo Villa dei Cedri Bellinzona/CH, Int. Art Meeting Athens/GR, 2021 Kunstmuseum Olten Aareweg/CH, Muratecentoventidue Bari/I, Kunstmuseum Thurgau Ittingen/CH, Kunstraum Dornbirn/A, 2020 Espace Monte Christo (Fondation Villa Datriis) Paris/F, Kunsthalle Ziegelhütte Appenzell/CH, 2019 Kunstmuseum Den Haag/NL, Cairo Biennale/E, Fondation Villa Datriis Isle sur la Sorgue/F, MARS Milano/I 2018 2B Galeria Budapest/HUN, artfair Paris/F (swiss selection of female video works), Center for contemporary art Plovdiv/Bulgaria, LAM-Art Museum Lisse/NL, 2017 LLuc Fluxa-Art projectes Palma de Mallorca/E, Kunstraum Baden/CH, Motorenhalle Dresden/DE, Le CYEL la Roche-sur-Yon/F, 2016 Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur/CH, 2015 Fondazione Cini Venezia/I, Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg/DE, Musée du papier peint Mézières/CH, 2014 Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken/DE, Galerie Michael Sturm Stuttgart/DE, 2013 Kunstmuseum Bern/CH 2012 Kunstmuseum Olten/CH 2011 Substitut Berlin/DE,

Contemporary Art Festival tina b. Prag/CZ 2010 Espace d'art contemporain Porrentruy/CH, 2009 Galerie HelmRinderknecht Berlin/DE 2008 Musée d'Art moderne St.Etienne/F, Künstlerhaus Wien/A, 2007 ZKM Zentrum Kunst+Medien Karlsruhe/D, Oktobersalon Belgrad/Serbien, 2006 Biennale Shumen/BG, Palazzo delle Arti Napoli/I, 2005 Musée de Monmartre Paris/F, 2004 Swiss Institute New York/USA, CynetArt Dresden/D, 2003 Kunsthalle Zürich/CH, Kunsthalle Wien/A, Neues Museum Weserburg Bremen/D 2002 Kunsthaus Baselland Muttenz/CH,

2000 Kunstraum Innsbruck/A 1999 Kunsthaus Zürich/CH

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