

Press Release Summer Program 2023

Berlin, 17 May 2023

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is pleased to present its Summer Program of 2023, which continues to investigate *the self* and its representation. This is exemplified by the sculptures of **Enrico David**, who critically elaborates on the body's autonomy through its different stages of non-being and becoming, as well as by the work of **Emily Wardill** and **Hervé Guibert**, who each explore what lies beyond the grasp of an image.



Hervé Guibert, *Vertiges*, n.d.; © Christine Guibert/Courtesy Les Douches la Galerie, Paris.

Enrico David

Destroyed Men Come and Go

10 June – 20 August 2023

Curator: Krist Gruijthuisen

Assistant Curator: Sofie Krogh Christensen

The exhibition will mark Enrico David's (b.1966, IT) first institutional solo exhibition in Germany and will be devoted solely to his sculptural practice.

David works with sculpture, painting, textiles, and installation, while drawing is also central to his exploration of form. Mining a space between figuration and abstraction, he consistently returns to the body as a point of departure, exploring the human figure as a metaphor for transformation. Conveying the struggle of adaptation of the self and the image, Enrico David's sculptures critically elaborate on the body's autonomy through its different stages of non-being and becoming.

In KW's main hall and on the ground floor, the sculptures will be exhibited in a spatial arrangement without walls, touching upon the concept of nothingness, and setting the scene for a silent non-space; a time without a present, a space of waiting and suspense. Having fallen out of being and caught in a constant mode of performative transformation, the artists anthropomorphic sculptures are punctual confrontations between themselves and their onlooker, caught in a struggle to appear as absolutes.

The exhibition is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation and KW Freunde. With special thanks to Michael Werner Gallery, New York and London. Mediapartner: Flux FM

KW Production Series:

Emily Wardill

Identical

10 June – 20 August 2023

Curator: Mason Leaver-Yap

Curatorial Assistant: Linda Franken

For the 2023 KW Production Series, artist Emily Wardill (b. 1977, GB) presents *Identical*, an immersive moving image installation. This new commission deepens the artist's ongoing enquiry into the 'imagined image'—what it is, what it has been used for, and what traces it leaves behind. Wardill's practice insistently approaches such questions, from her earliest work that looked at stained glass as an early device to communicate with the illiterate, to her recent work that reverses the cinematic technique of 'day for night' simulation in order to reflect upon technological vision, performed gender and utopias.

Wardill's new installation draws aesthetic inspiration from 'expanded cinema'—a multimedia form developed by artists in the 1960s and 1970s—while also engaging with the imaginary of 'expansion' as it relates to individual consciousness, and to territorial economic growth and domination.

Identical splits the audience's attention across two video screens whose images loop, split and fold into one another. With reference to iconic cinematic moments of sexual pleasure and physical violence, *Identical* reflects on the manufactured nature of these moments of abandon, lensing their reconstruction through children and inflatable automata. The accompanying soundtrack runs up and down a central channel in the gallery, weaving an eight-piece choir (whose chorus builds in a Fibonacci pattern) together with sampled tracks, cover songs, and ruminations on 'splitting' both as duplicitous and the genesis of life on a cellular level.

In its switching and merging, *Identical* asks the audience to consider who wove pleasure into domination and why, where does rhyme become reason, and what is the shifting relationship between comedy and tragedy. Amid such binaries, *Identical* begins to articulate a different space: a polyphonic experience that refuses to become one thing or the other.

KW Production Series is an annual commissioning project dedicated to artists' moving image works. The project takes inspiration from KW's founding principles as a place for production, critical exchange, and thoughtful collaboration. Within this ongoing series, KW seeks to identify and serve artists who are at a pivotal moment in their work and career—those who will benefit not only from the financial support and institutional visibility this opportunity provides but also those who will be able to use KW Production Series to significantly contribute towards the depth and rigor of their artistic practice.

The exhibition is produced in partnership with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation as part of the PARTENARIATS GULBENKIAN program to support Portuguese art in European artistic institutions. Mediapartner: gallerytalk.net

Hervé Guibert

This and More

10 June – 20 August 2023

Curator: Anthony Huberman

Assistant Curator: Sofie Krogh Christensen

KW Institute for Contemporary Art presents *Hervé Guibert – This and More*, a solo exhibition featuring a selection of photographs by the late French artist, writer, and activist Hervé Guibert (b. 1955, FR, d. 1991, FR). Curated by Anthony Huberman, the exhibition explores what lies beyond the grasp of photography.

Better known for his portraits, Guibert also photographed interiors, inanimate objects, and empty rooms—an important body of work that remains relatively unknown. Laconic and reserved, these photographs offer an approach to portraiture where what is missing from the image is what counts. Charged with love as well as with trauma, these interior spaces invite imaginative readings of the people who belong or once belonged there. His photographs lay open the artist's most intimate spaces while also maintaining the secrecy of private moments, with the protagonists kept safely (or tragically) out of the frame or at a distance.

Instead of providing a sense of objectivity or 'truth', this exhibition points to all that is invisible in a photograph: memories, anecdotes, absences, and richly layered subjectivities. Guibert's photographs of objects and domestic spaces are replete with the ghostly absence of those who once inhabited them and left them behind. In that sense, this exhibition considers the 'truths' that lie dormant within a photograph, invisible to the eye and yet central to the image. It proposes images about what is absent from images.

The exhibition is organized by CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco. Special thanks to Christine Guibert and Françoise Morin at Les Douches la Galerie as well as Photios Giovanis at Callicoon Fine Arts. Mediapartner: arte

Press contact

Marie Kube
Tel. +49 30 243459-41
press@kw-berlin.de

KW Institute for Contemporary Art

Auguststraße 69
10117 Berlin
www.kw-berlin.de

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The exhibitions and projects within the Summer Program 2023 are in collaboration with and/or supported by:

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Titles and exhibition dates are subject to change