

KW

**Kris Lemsalu Malone &
Kyp Malone Lemsalu
29 February – 3 May 20**

Kris Lemsalu Malone & Kyp Malone Lemsalu

Love Song Sing-Along

29 February – 3 May 20

Opening: 28 February 20, 7 pm

KW Institute for Contemporary Art presents new works by the Estonian artist Kris Lemsalu Malone (born in 1985, EE), who will be collaborating with the American artist and multi-instrumentalist Kyp Malone Lemsalu (born in 1973, US) for her first institutional exhibition in Germany.

Kris Lemsalu Malone creates sculptures, installations, and performances that fuse the animal kingdom with that of humankind, nature with the artificial, beauty with repulsion, lightness with gravity, and life with death.

Paper, ceramics, leather, used objects, and found materials from nature like feathers, shells, and wool are used to create theatrical installations that capture the viewer in a world of fantastic imagination.

Striving to erase any distance between herself and her objects, the artist also uses her installations to stage performances in which her sculptures become an integral part of her attire. In her works, the memory of local mythologies is alloyed onto the surfaces of the objects which resemble artifacts and byproducts of contemporary civilization.

"She has no time for concepts, she lives them", writes Tamara Luuk, art historian and longtime friend of Kris Lemsalu Malone. The work of the young artist eludes clear definition. Picking up on the zeitgeist,



Kris Lemsalu Malone & Kyp Malone Lemsalu, 2019, Photo: Eric Martin

it negotiates existence in a world full of multiple personalities and blurred spatial and temporal boundaries, permeated by a desire for ecstatic personal experiences.

Since Performa 17, Kris Lemsalu Malone has been working with Kyp Malone Lemsalu to create enhanced installations and performances encompassing sculpture, ceramics, animation, as well as music and sound. For their exhibition at KW, the now-married duo has developed a large-scale installation presenting newly conceived works. *Love Song Sing-Along* is not only to be seen as a spatial exhibition but also as the result of a collaboration between the artist couple and their friends. By bringing together performance, music, and sculptural works, the project aims to create a world of animism interspersed with mythological motifs, inviting the viewer to become an active part of the installation.

The columns in the middle of KW's exhibition space have been transformed into wondrous birch trees by sculptor Michèle Pagel in which nature is only a vague memory. Light curtains with Kyp Malone Lemsalu's watercolor paintings wave in front of the window niches, featuring the couple in different scenarios, including the archetypes of Adam and Eve. The protagonists of the exhibition are, however, a swan, a hare, and a jaguar. From an old pedal boat, found costumes, and handmade ceramic elements, Lemsalu Malone created a group of fairytale figures that in the form of a vehicle is also a part of the couple's opening and closing performance. In this performance, the couple will like shamans shapeshift into animals, play musical instruments, and drift through the exhibition space in the swan boat.

The moment, in which the artist becomes one with and an active part of with her work, is central to Lemsalu Malone's artistic examination of the world. The "inhabitation" of her objects and sculptures is also related to her passion for fashion and the collecting of clothes and textiles. When asked about why she collects so excessively, Lemsalu Malone replied: "*When I was without a permanent home, living here and there, clothes were my home.*"

In *Love Song Sing-Along*, also travelling plays an important role. While made comprehensible by the varying temporal levels and transformative moments in its performative elements, the exhibition itself was conceived while travelling. Lemsalu Malone discovered the traditional animal costumes at a market in Mexico City. The heads of the jaguar and hare were in turn made in a large ceramic kiln on an Estonian island. The composites she creates—sembled of textile and ceramic objects—often refer back to ancient narratives of different cultures. Thus, the animal symbols included in the exhibition can also be looked at from this perspective. The jaguar, for example, can be found in

the mythological world of the Maya as a representative of the underworld. There, as in Western cultures, the hare and the swan represent creative power and fertility, respectively.

As in previous projects, Lemsalu Malone negotiates central themes around birth and rebirth in *Love Song Sing-Along*. At the Venice Biennale 2019, for example, she showed a fountain with ceramic vulvas focusing on the matriarchal power of birth. In the exhibition at KW, these themes reappear in new narrative forms. Concurrently, the space is molded by the physical presence of the works and the newly created Gesamtkunstwerk transcends fixed ascriptions, language, and words, and brings collective work and experience to the fore.

Public Program

Opening Performance

Kris Lemsalu Malone & Kyp Malone Lemsalu

28 February 20, 8.30 pm

Venue: 3rd floor

Please note that only a limited number of people can be admitted at any one time.

Rat Rights Label presents:

Apocalypso Mike, karaoke and live music

Love Song Sing-Along After Party

Venue: Pogo Bar

28 February 20, 10 pm

Public tour with assistant curator Léon Kruijswijk

12 March 20, 6 pm

Admission: included in the exhibition ticket

In English

Public tour with curator Cathrin Mayer

2 April 20, 6 pm

Admission: included in the exhibition ticket

In English

Film screening:

Scott Clifford Evans *MURDERKINO* (2020)

7 April 20, 7 pm

Venue: Pogo Bar

RSVP to pogobar@kw-berlin.de.

In English

Closing Performance

Kris Lemsalu Malone & Kyp Malone Lemsalu

3 May 20, 7 pm

Venue: 3rd floor

Please note that only a limited number of people can be admitted at any one time.

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Opening Hours

Wednesday–Monday 11 am–7 pm
Thursday 11 am–9 pm
Closed on Tuesday

Admission Charges

8 € / reduced 6 €
Combined Day Ticket KW / me Collectors Room Berlin
10 € / reduced 8 €
berlinpass holder 4 €
Free admission to visitors up to and including 18,
KW Friends, holders of the KW Lover* card,
on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 pm, and during
Gallery Weekend from 1–3 May 20

Guided Tours

Free guided tours
During regular opening hours, visitors of KW can
participate in short introductions to the exhibitions by
the KW Guides. Please reach out to our staff at the
counter. Participation is free of charge.

Public guided tours through the exhibitions
Every Saturday at 4 pm in English
Every Sunday at 4 pm in German

Individual guided tours
60 minutes: 70 € / reduced 55 € plus reduced entrance
fee per person (free admission up to 18 years)
For further information on group tours, please contact
Katja Zeidler at kaz@kw-berlin.de.

Colophon

Curator: Cathrin Mayer
Assistant Curator: Léon Kruijswijk
Public Program and Outreach: Sabrina Herrmann
Head of Production: Claire Spilker
Production Assistants: Kristina Oras, Kerli Praks
Technical Management: Tõnu Narro, Wilken Schade
Technical Assistants: Mihkel Lember, Tarvo Porroson
Head of Installation, Media Technology: Markus Krieger
Installation Team: KW Installation Team
Registrar: Monika Grzymislawska
Head of Press and Communication: Karoline Köber
Text and Editing: Sofie Krogh Christensen,
Léon Kruijswijk, Cathrin Mayer
Interns: Carlotta Gonindard Liebe, Carolina Maddè,
Janina Schnitzler

Artistic Team

Music and Sound: Kris Lemsalu Malone &
Kyp Malone Lemsalu
Design of the Columns: Michèle Pagel
Performance Coordination: Ene-Liis Semper
Project Management: Evelyn Raudsepp

Kris Lemsalu Malone thanks Julia Heuer, Lilian Hiob,
Allan Hmelnitski, Edith Karlson, and Olga Temnikova.

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