

Exhibition

Hors-d'œuvre

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Press kit

Hors-d'œuvre

20/10/2023
— 21/01/2024
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité
Luxembourg

Free entrance

Hors-d'œuvre focuses on the theme and metaphor of food in contemporary art. This exhibition sheds light on the complex relationship between people and their food, and showcases the artistic interpretation of food consumption and its effects on society and the environment, in particular.

As a saying goes, we eat with our eyes first, thus our visual and gustatory senses are inevitably linked. The iconographic references to food are omnipresent art history. From the representation of Greek Gods and Goddesses, the 17th century Dutch and Flemish still lifes, the smells, tastes and banquets deployed by Daniel Spoerri and the *Nouveau Réalistes*, up to Erwin Wurm's *Gherkins*, food remains a relevant artistic subject today.

With pressing ecological issues, overconsumption- and production and the (de-) valorisation of labour, food became a material in contemporary art to shed light on critical societal topics. The exhibition will present a selection of works by artists from the Benelux and Greater Region - photographs, paintings, performances, installations and videos - whose forms, structures, materials and concepts explore the theme of food in an original, critical and playful way, through notions of enjoyment, waste, pollution, addiction, migration, displacement, identity and gender roles.

Food is a vital component of our daily lives, however our dealing with food and our consumption patterns are as individual and manifold as the artistic interpretations of the subject.

"Your drinks are served": **Trixi Weis** will kickstart the exhibition with her participative performance *economy class*. The glasses produced by the artist specifically for the occasion, can only remain half full. These containers force us to rethink and possibly change our habits, confronting us in a playful and unusual way, as well as reinterpreting the (drinking) rituals surrounding an exhibition opening. The work also reminds us of the conventions of the increasingly disappearing (upper) middle class in Europe. The performative glasses will be available for sale as a set of four at the exhibition from October 20th on. In addition to the performance, the artist again questions addiction and the scale of its impact on society with her tiny sculpture *sugar*.

In her triptych *Sweet Country*, **Florence Haessler** also thematises sweets. With chocolates wrapped in shiny paper, peppermint candy and *Tic Tacs* - items that the artist, who also has a sweet tooth, claims to carry in her purse on regular occasions - Haessler paints a flag of Luxembourg as a powerful representation of her belonging to a country that once welcomed her with open arms. This hyperrealistic and emotional work sheds a different light on everyday food items, giving them a much more powerful meaning.

Alexandre Lavet, who demarks himself by the subtleness of his artistic interventions and his craftfully created facsimiles, also reacts to relocating in a very personal way. After having relocated to Brussels, he created the work, *All the good times we spent together* that refers and pays homage to the many openings that the artist attended when discovering the Brussels art scene, and a ritual that is inevitably related with it. He plays with presence, absence and the meaning of an object in an art space, as he puts cans of "Jupiler", the Belgian everyday beer, into the center of his ensembles that might appear nearly unnoticed in an exhibition space.

Simone Decker's *Chewing in Venice 2* is a photographic series that was exhibited at the Luxembourgish Pavilion at the 48th Venice Biennale 1999. Staying true to her spatial interventions that are often departing from a specific architectural or institutional context, and / or public space, the artist uses the technique of optical illusion that is at once confusing and captivating our sense of vision. By using a very specific angle in her photographic work, she staged chewing gum sculptures in the streets of Venice that only exist as the photographic time bubbles.

In her video work, **Bea de Visser** adapts a sensitive and engaged point of view. *Blowup* is composed of intimate close-ups showing girls, chewing bubble gums, a common and seemingly innocent ritual. The video contains elements of both playfulness and seduction, underlining the dichotomy and the alliance between innocence and dirtiness in the idealised image of women and beauty, and in doing so revealing the vulnerability of the construct of female identity.

Puck Verkade is an artist who successfully mixes subversive humour with important societal topics, feminism and ecological awareness through her drawings, installations and films. By mixing these mediums with performance, stop motion and auto documentation, often performing the characters she is inventing in front of the green screen using handmade costumes and props made out of accessible materials, her interdisciplinary work questions prejudices, archetypes and social structures. In her work *Plague* she portrays a metamorphosis between a housewife and a fly in a truly Kafkaesque way. The video is narrated from a unique perspective, the one of a housefly. To experience the unusual story, the audience is invited to take place in an installation made out of giant cardboard fries. In doing so, Verkade is not only skillfully playing with perspective and scale but also actively enhancing the audience's immersion.

In his paintings, **Ugo Li** plays with the iconography of banquets and abundance, referring to absurdism and playing with words. The generally absent human figure is at times revealed to us by small parts of the human body, such as hands or fingers. The artist puts forward the ritual of consuming food and what it implies, culturally, socially or on an interpersonal, relational level. The episodes take place in a restaurant or at home, together or alone, evoking traditions, gluttony, and our capitalist reality. Sometimes his canvases resemble a scene in a film, a meal or a family celebration, minutes before the escalation in the narrative.

The precise and delicate installations of **Jieun Lim** often transform scenes from literature, movies, memories or everyday into visual language. Her cultural background and Korean customs play an important role and are often integrated into the works in an unexpected way. Her neon work *DRIED SQUID COLD BEER AND PEANUTS* stems from a scene in the Korean film «The Power of Kangwon Province» (Hong Sang-soo, 1998) taking place in a train. This quote of a trolley vendor evokes a specific regional feel and was translated into English to address the automatic linguistic changes that result from translations.

Also to be seen in parallel to the *Hors-d'œuvre* exhibition: the exhibition *All you can eat - l'homme et son alimentation* at the Lëtzebuerg City Museum!

Organisation	Cercle Cité
Curator	Anastasia Chaguidouline
Media partners	Paperjam and KACHEN magazine

Public program**WORKSHOPS****Vinaquarelle**

10.11.2023 at 18:00

Centre de conférences (Entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

On the occasion of the *Hors-d'œuvre* exhibition, Cercle Cité invites you to a special afterwork with the designer Lucie Majerus and the winemaker Michèle Mannes. Lucie Majerus creates wine-based paint and invites you to draw still lifes. Drawing and tasting the wine at the same time? Michèle Mannes from Domaine Häremillen will be pleased to introduce you to her wines during a wine tasting.

An event organized in collaboration with LUGA.

Price: 15€

Language: in French, English, Luxembourgish and German

Payment and registration on cerclecite.lu

Kimchi & fermentation

07.11.2023 at 18:00

Bar foyer and kitchen (Entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

During this special evening, Jennifer Olding from *The Happy Guts' Company* is introducing the public to the diverse methods of fermentation, such as lacto-, mold and acid fermentation and its health benefits. After demonstrating lactofermentation during the preparation of kimchi in the kitchen of Cercle Cité, the participants are invited to sample different type of fermented products from the range of *The Happy Guts' Company* in the historical Bar Foyer.

Price: 15€

Language: English

Payment and registration on cerclecite.lu

LECTURES**Dem Lëtzebuenger säi Léifsten - alles ronderëm d'Gromper**

15.11.2023 at 18:00

Auditorium Cité (Entrance: 3, rue Genistre)

LUGA - Luxembourg Urban Garden invites the public to a conference on the history of the potato in Luxembourg as part of its preliminary program *semer en 2023, récolter en 2025* (sow in 2023, harvest in 2025). This conference is led by specialist Franz Kremer and organized in partnership with the Cercle Cité and Lëtzebuerg City Museum as part of the temporary exhibitions *All you can eat* (at the Lëtzebuerg City Museum) and *Hors-d'oeuvre* (at the Cercle Cité).

Dem Lëtzebuenger säi Léifsten - alles ronderëm d'Gromper invites the curious and the potato lovers to discover all the facets and the fascinating history of this vegetable so coveted by the Luxembourgers.

In the program: a brief history of the potato in Luxembourg, a presentation of the varieties grown throughout the country, the various certified plants and practical advice on how to discover the varieties best suited to growing in our gardens.

Free entrance, registration on cerclecite.lu

All you can eat/see

11.12.2023 at 18:00

Auditorium Henri Beck (Entrance: 2, rue Genistre)

Today, we devour more culinary data with our eyes than real food with our mouths. When eating, the focus is on taste, but all the senses work together to make a visit to a restaurant a multi-sensory experience. Food not only pleases the tongue and palate, but also acts visually as a medium that communicates beyond taste. Especially in haute cuisine, this is used consciously. In addition to good taste, there are concepts behind many dishes that are revealed by the way they are arranged. In the process, references to art, cuisine and pop culture can be shown. In this way, food can be enjoyed across space and time.

It is therefore worthwhile - as in art - to look closely and enjoy a dish not only in terms of taste, because «Anyone who enjoys works of art in a concretist way is a philistine». (Theodor W. Adorno, Aesthetic Theory) In this sense, food is always also "Food for Thought".

Free entrance, registration on cerclecite.lu

PERFORMANCES ET CONCERTS

CUTE ETC. (Performance with Noe Duboutay)

Two dates : 07.12.2023 and 08.12.2023, at 18:00

Ratskeller exhibition space (rue du Curé)

cute etc. is a participatory performance that delves into plant hormones and their ability to change a body. Noe Duboutay performs as the host of a card game. He invites to play with gender stereotypes and to allow the own body to slip and shift – to be cute.

In *cute etc.* Noe uses his research on plant hormones and changing bodily experiences to provoke common ideas of body transformations and masculinity.

The card game looks at how plants help shape contemporary subjects and help us break out of social categories and deconstruct binary gender narratives, while embracing the shifting of emotional and physical states.

The performance looks at the longing for change, and its simultaneous fear of it, the desire to transition, and the doubt of gender norms. Noe performs as a gender-ambivalent creature that guides the audience through a realm of joyful mutations through plant ingestions.

The performance is free, registration on cerclecite.lu

Chef meets Chef - Anne Faber x Corinna Niemeyer

Two dates : 20.01.2024 at 18:00 and 21.01.2024 at 11:00

Main entrance (Place d'Armes)

To round off the Cercle Cité's exhibition *Hors-d'œuvre*, join the OCL for a programme packed with colour and flavour alongside Anne Faber!

While she revisits emblematic Luxembourg recipes, melodies by Delibes will set the tone for this evening, as an invitation to dance, sometimes amusing with Haydn's *Chicken*, sometimes enchanting with the exploration of the Kingdom of Delights from *The Nutcracker*. This concert-aperitif for the ears and taste buds promises to delight everyone!

Vegetarian options available.

Tickets on luxembourgticket.lu

GUIDED TOURS

Free guided tour every Saturday

21/10/23 at 3 p.m. (FR)
28/10/23 at 3 p.m. (EN)
04/11/23 at 3 p.m. (LU/DE)
18/11/23 at 3 p.m. (EN)
25/11/23 at 3 p.m. (LU/DE)
02/12/23 at 3 p.m. (FR)
16/12/23 at 3 p.m. (LU/DE)
23/12/23 at 3 p.m. (FR)
30/12/23 at 3 p.m. (EN)
13/01/24 at 3 p.m. (FR)

Free entrance and without registration, subject to availability

Curatorial visit with Anastasia Chaguidouline

20/01/24 at 3 p.m. (EN)

Free entrance and without registration, subject to availability

Guided tour for families

On the occasion of the *Hors-d'œuvre* exhibition, Cercle Cité invites you to its playful guided tours specially conceived for families. Discover the exhibition differently: with the help of scent boxes, let your sense of smell guide you to find the foods that inspired the artists to create their sculptures, paintings and videos.

11/11/23 at 3 p.m. (FR)
09/12/23 at 3 p.m. (EN)
06/01/24 at 3 p.m. (LU/DE)

Free entrance and without registration, subject to availability

Guided tour combined with the All you can eat exhibition at the Lëtzebuerg City Museum

09/11/23 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. (EN)
 23/11/23 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. (FR)
 14/12/23 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. (FR)
 18/01/24 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. (LU/DE)

Free entrance and registration required: +352 4796 4500 | visites@2musees.vdl.lu

Practical information and press contact

Exhibition	« Hors-d'oeuvre »
Dates	From October 19 th 2023 until January 21 st 2024
Opening hours	Free entrance, every day from 11:00 to 19:00
Venue	<i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space, entrance via rue du Curé
Accessibility	Exhibition accessible to people with motor disabilities and reduced mobility
Press visuals	cerclecite.lu/fr/press
More information	cerclecite.lu
Press contact	<p>Iyoshi Kreutz, Communications manager T : +352 46 49 46-25 iyoshi.kreutz@cerclecite.lu</p> <p>Laurène Him, Communications and media officer T : +352 46 49 46-20 laurene.him@cerclecite.lu</p>