

Exhibition

GOSSIP
matters hard
to grasp

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05



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06

Press kit

GOSSIP matters hard to grasp

Twin exhibition as part of the Artmix exchange programme

04/05/2024
— 30/06/2024
11:00 - 19:00

Cercle Cité
Luxembourg

Free entrance

Until the 14th century, “I’m going out with my gossip” was a common declaration used by predominantly assigned females at birth and femme identifying individuals to describe that they were meeting up with trusted others. In the context of that time, “gossip” described not only friends, but generally people who shared wisdom(s). The gossips were also responsible for passing on stories orally and thus made an important contribution to the well-being of the community.

With the rise of capitalism and the associated degradation of womxn’s knowledge, the meaning of the word changed towards informal chatter. Today, the term still embodies the negative connotation and the embedded devaluation of “femme” knowledge systems and labor.

In the spirit of the original meaning, the four artmix-artists **Noé Duboutay** (*1995 in Luxembourg; lives between Berlin and Luxembourg), **Darja Linder** (*1992 in Thälmanskij/Russia; lives and works in Saarbrücken), **Sophia Lökenhoff** (*1989 in Essen/Germany; lives and works in Berlin) and **Hannah Mevis** (*1989 in Heidelberg/Germany; lives and works between Saarbrücken and Brussels) are developing a twin-exhibition centered on the interweaving of memories and the political act of exchanging knowledge:

„We are artists, friends, and trusted gossips who engage with personal backgrounds, experiences, physicalities, and curiosities. We do this to counter the greed of toxic power structures with values that lie beyond the patriarchy. In the communal refusal to solidify, we offer multiple counter-positions that let us move towards the wisdom of forgotten stories.

We invite you to witness our gathering(s) to immerse yourself in worlds of matters that are hard to grasp.”

Organisation	Artmix exchange program between the cities of Saarbrücken and Luxembourg
Partners	Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Cercle Cité, neimënster and Casino Display
Artists and curators	Noé Duboutay (he/they), Darja Linder (she/her), Sophia Lökenhoff (they/them), and Hannah Mevis (she/her)
Location	Large room of the <i>Ratskeller</i> exhibition space



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The Artmix exchange programme

Artmix is an exchange program between the cities of Saarbrücken and Luxembourg. The cooperation partners of the project are the **Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken** and from Luxembourg the **Cercle Cité, neimënster**, as well as **Casino Display**.

The project, which has been running since 2005, connects artists from the Greater Region. The objective is to promote regional networking between neighboring art scenes and various disciplines, aiming to facilitate new forms of collaboration and professionalization. After the Artmix project was temporarily suspended due to the pandemic (11th edition: 2019), it resumed in 2023 with new partners in Luxembourg.

For the current edition, the jury decided in favor of the artists Noé Duboutay (he/they) for Luxembourg and Darja Linder (she/her) for Saarbrücken. Noé decided to include Sophia Lökenhoff (they/them) in the team and Darja selected Hannah Mevis (she/her).

During the exchange, the participants worked together for three weeks in Luxembourg (neimënster) in December 2023 and then for three weeks in Saarbrücken (Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken) in March 2024. The group then developed and curated the two exhibitions.

The exhibitions will take place from May 3 to May 26, 2024, at the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, and from May 4 to June 30, 2024, at the Cercle Cité in Luxembourg. Casino Display is as a network partner.

Biography of the artists

Noé Duboutay is a performance artist and writer based in Berlin.

They perform with their body and voice, making installations and props and writing scripts, poems, and prose exploring human identities' entanglements with non-human entities and materialities.

Noé's artistic practice moves within finding ways of experiencing a societal body and its forms of embodiments that question what makes a body and what reads a body. He navigates within the entanglements of social and political constructs of gender and sexuality and creates space for fragile uncertainty and softness.

Through fictive and virtual realms of writing and moving, Noé creates ways of finding queer connections, ally- and kinships as means to mutate with pleasure.

Born and raised in Luxembourg, they graduated in 2019 from HBKsaar with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts, 2021 with a Master of Fine Arts from ZHdK, and they finished their performance studies in Live Art Forms at AdBK Nürnberg in 2023. Noé won the *Akademiepreis AdBK Nürnberg* in 2022 and received the *Bourse Auguste van Werveke-Hanno* the same year. In 2023, Noé published his first literary publication, "mud and the bros" with Lemon Press Zurich.

Sophia Lökenhoff, a trans-disciplinary performance artist from Berlin, creates immersive performances that deal with bodies, time dimensions, spaces, objects, sounds, and their relationship to the ethereal. Since 2020, Sophia has been working on an ongoing performance cycle (op. {{*}} 001-005) that explores the transitions of a fabulated figure called IAGA. IAGA coexists in symbiosis with and through many bodies, exploring the remnants of triple femme deities in contemporary knowledge systems. The specific focus lies on the regeneration of the magical sphere as queer, gender-fluid and non-binary. The format of the performances oscillates between workshop, play, and ritual, inviting the audience to become part of a layered experience within a specific space-time.

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Sophia holds an MA from the LIVE ART FORMS program at AdBK Nuremberg, a Diploma of Fine Art, and a *Meisterschüler*innen* title from the Braunschweig University of Art. They received the Diploma Award from the Brunswick Cultural Heritage Foundation in 2019 and got proposed by the Kestnergesellschaft Hanover for the Ars Viva Prize 2022. Since 2020, they have been working in close exchange with a cast performance team. Outside of work, Sophia invests in re-queering pagan rituals and involves themselves in a self-organized non-profit art space called *Make-up* in Reinickendorf Berlin. Their works and performances have been made public at Cashmere Radio (Berlin), Kunstverein Braunschweig, PLX Festival Tjärö (Sweden), 029 Berlin, gr-und Berlin, at OPaf art fair Los Angeles (California, USA), and the 2nd edition of off-biennial in Cairo (Egypt).

Darja Linder, born in 1992 in Russia and raised in Düren, NRW, currently resides and works in Saarbrücken. Her figurative paintings and bright installations serve as a visual commentary on the collective experiences of her generation, drawing inspiration from the nuances of dating apps, television series, and internet phenomena. The vibrant and bold aesthetic engages with the contemporary yearning for oversaturation and excess in a late capitalist society, concealing beneath its surface a layer of profound and often uncomfortable themes. Linder's work raises inquiries into matters of class, gender, and migration. With a keen observation of the interplay between political power structures and individual desires, her art delves into the intricate ways these desires shape and define our identities. Shaped by her own experiences between the crumbling socialism in the East and the capitalist structures in the West, she addresses socio-critical themes without losing the touch of lightness and beauty that lies within the cultures.

Born in 1992 in a small "German" settlement in Siberia, Darja Linder arrived in Düren, NRW, as a late resettler with her family in 1998, spending her childhood and adolescence there until completing her *Abitur*. She initially studied Art Education at the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar and received her Meister*innenschüler Title in 2020 in Fine Arts. Since 2022, she has been a lecturer at HBK Saar and, together with Prof. Langendorf, received the State Prize for Higher Education Teaching. Darja Linder is a scholarship recipient of the Landeshauptstadt Saarbrücken and was nominated for the Robert Schumann Prize in 2023. Over the past years, her work has been featured in exhibitions in Berlin, Hamburg, and Saarbrücken, as well as in Luxembourg and France.

Hannah Mevis is a visual artist and researcher. Hannah's process-oriented practice challenges her to act as an artist, performer, organizer, writer, chef, lecturer, teacher, student or whatever role is needed within the context. Central to her work is the curiosity for the human body in juxtaposition to itself along with its social constructs. Her work takes a variety of shapes which are influenced by context and concept, and incorporates her own sensory physicality as well as that of the viewer. Sometimes, the spectator can wear a sculpture; float in a blue space; participate in an action to the outcome of an artwork; taste foods while hearing about their stories; create images within their minds while reading the words that she wrote. Currently, Hannah is navigating between states of exhaustion and the activity of catching cumulus.

Hannah Mevis works as an artist and art mediator. With her multidisciplinary approach, she questions the perception of the human body and the social structures embodied in it. After graduating in Fine Arts, she completed the post-academic studio programme at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts (HISK) in Ghent, Belgium. Among other places, her works have been shown in the context of: Night Air : Breathing with Clouds - Sonic Acts Amsterdam, Pale Burnt Lake - Annie Gentils Gallery Antwerp, Point of No Return. Attunement of Attention - NART Narva, Estonia, An Island of Multiple Bridges - HISK laureates exhibition, Gent, Full Moon Phase as member of Transnational Alliance - Contour Biennale 9 in Mechelen, Failures of Cohabitation - M HKA, Antwerp. In 2023, Mevis opened her first institutional solo exhibition "Erschöpfung" (Exhaustion) at the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken.

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Public program

PERFORMANCE

mud and the bros

by Noé Duboutay

05.05.2024 from 18:00 until 19:00

Casino Display (1, rue de la Loge)

In *mud and the bros*, Noe Duboutay performs as the Amphibian, who shapeshifts and reads various accounts of desire and lust.

The Amphibian brings stories about his relationships to Gender and Bread, fantasies and experiences, dust that becomes mud, gel that becomes waves, voices, and whispers to the space to understand his longing for change.

Free entrance

Language: in English

Registration required at Casino Display, or via cerclecite.lu

Organisation	Artmix & Trans Whatever? (Intersex and TransGender Luxembourg a.s.b.l.)
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Financial support	Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
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GUIDED TOURS

Free guided tour every Saturday at 15:00

04.05 (FR)

11.05 (EN)

18.05 (LU/DE)

25.05 (FR)

01.06 (EN)

15.06 (LU/DE)

22.06 (FR)

29.06 (EN)

Free entrance and without registration

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Practical information and press contact

Exhibition	« GOSSIP matters hard to grasp »
Dates	From May 4 th until June 30 th 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/en/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>