

OPEN CALL  
JOVENS CURADORES 2016

# COSMIC WORDS

Curator: **ALEJANDRO ALONSO DÍAZ**

Joana Escoval / Karlos Gil / Natalie Hausler / Sophie Jung  
Meggy Rustamova / Hannah Weinberger / Florian Zeyfang

(BOAVISTA)  
galerias  
municipais

*"I want the irrational to be continuously overdetermined, like the structure of coral; it must combine into one single system everything that until now has been systematically excluded by a mode of reason that is still incomplete<sup>1</sup>".*

Standing against prevailing sociocultural acceptances that see language as an arena of texts, ideology, narratives, codes and metaphors, *Cosmic Words* is a group exhibition that traces the movements and interplays between matter and language. Whilst the common use of language designates an intention to communicate, it is ultimately a free, physical signifier in itself, that could serve as bridge towards an understanding of the natural world built upon the basis of physical forces, flows and material exchanges.

Inspired by Roger Caillois' *The writing of stones*, the exhibition considers how meaning arises in the vortex of biological processes, energy flows, social dynamics and physical interactions and whether humans can tell about the axiomatics that bind these indivisible forces together.

**21 / 04 a 18 / 06 / 2017**

tuesday to friday ► 10h–13h and 14h–18h  
saturday and sunday ► 14h–18h  
closes on the 1<sup>st</sup> of may

**GALERIA BOAVISTA**  
Rua da Boavista, 47-50  
1200-066 Lisboa

+351 213 476 335  
galeriasmunicipais@egeac.pt

In his book, Caillois proposes an imaginary of stones that goes back to Ovid's visions of the cosmos in which the inorganic and the organic, stone and flesh fuse along the continuum uniting of everything. Thus, the exhibition attempts to create an experience where different processes of matter and energy interact with the whim and will of human languages to form a panoramic vision –free of rigid structures and western notions of progress and order– that allows us to envision the physical rhythms of language flowing through materials, culture and the production of meaning. A rhythm that contracts or expands, quickens or slows giving shape to auto-poetic structures of knowledge and socio-natural relations.

<sup>1</sup> Roger Caillois, letter of 27 December 1934 to André Breton, in Claudine Frank, ed. *The Edge of*

Structures as different as plants, stones, animal species and societies may be seen as the result of similar generating-processes. But, does language embody a similar material apparatus? How do language and other physical processes articulate each other?

What kind of logics operate within these dynamics? The accumulations of linguistic materials that are sorted into homogeneous sets are examples of stratified systems, and hence, language can also be said to follow the same physical dynamics.

The exhibition comprises a selection of artists concerned with how language affects the material world. They examine the processes responsible for the structuring of language in relation to these of stones, plants, animals and societies; allowing us to reflect on the current moment of environmental urgency while proposing a material empathy towards the natural and non-human cosmos in which we coexist.

## **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

**Alejandro Alonso Díaz** é investigador e curador independente, com formação em história de arte e filosofia. Licenciado em história de arte, realizou um mestrado em curadoria de arte contemporânea no programa de pós-graduação da Whitechapel Gallery, em Londres. A sua prática de escrita e curadoria foca-se nos discursos sociopolíticos em torno das noções de materialidade, ambientalismo, a ação humana e o bem comum na relação entre as espécies, frequentemente centrada na investigação de outras formas de existência no mundo e na reflexão sobre formas radicais de alteridade. Os seus projetos propõem-se flexibilizar estruturas sociais cristalizadas e o pensamento humanista como forma de ativar novos modos de experiência nos quais estruturas fluidas e zonas híbridas apresentam ecossistemas de pensamento mais interdependentes e sensíveis.

Alejandro foi curador e participou em projetos integrados nos seguintes eventos e instituições, entre outros: Bienal de Performance, Atenas (2016); Tenderpixel, Londres (2015); The Agency, Bogotá (2015); Chisenhale Studios, Londres (2015); The Olbricht Foundation, Berlim (2015); the Whitechapel Gallery, Londres (2015-2016); Ivorypress, Madrid (2013) e Galerias Municipais de Lisboa (2017). Alejandro beneficiou de uma bolsa de curadoria da Fundación Botín nos anos de 2014 e 2015. Atualmente... (falta texto aqui)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Joana Escoval** (Lisbon, 1982) lives and works in Lisbon. Her work seeks ways of approaching sculpture as appearances occurring throughout things in their raw state. Observing natural contingencies and how these infiltrate into the act of becoming, her work becomes matter and its own decomposition. The collection and dissipation of materials functions as events that go beyond the mere act of displaying, rather than proposing a continuous action that is inseparable from the passing days.

Recent exhibitions include the solo show "Whirlpools", Vera Cortes, 2014; "Outlaws in language and destiny", Parkour, Lisboa (2013); "Wild Mother", Halfhouse, Barcelona, Spain (2011); And group shows including: "Le petit Le Normand (Cartomance and Probability)", commissioned by Luís Silva, Vera Cortês, Lisbon (2013), "BES Revelation 2012" Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto (2012), Nogueira da Silva Museum, Braga, Portugal (2012). In 2012, she was one of the winners of the Bes Revel Art Award. She recently published the 7 "Flexi-Disc" beings that accept and embrace the growth of other beings" through ATLAS Projects and Palmario Recordings.

**Karlos Gil** (Madrid, 1984) reflects on the different layers of interpretation and meaning of language and its non-communicative use through multiple conceptual strategies. Through a variety of media such as archival material, found objects, video, spoken word, readings, meta-installations or typography, the artist investigates the direction in regard to the object of art and examines the cognitive value of this as a specific system of knowledge-production.

Karlos Gil has exhibited his work in institutions centers such as CA2M, CCCB, La Capella, Matadero, La Casa Encendida, Centre George Pompidou, Salon Flux Moscow. He holds a degree in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid, pursuing studies at FBA Lisboa and the School of Visual Arts in New York.

**Natalie Hausler** (Munich, 1983) work uses media such as sculpture, installation and performance that navigate around textual sources. Her practice begins with words, and produces original conversations as a result of fleeting encounters between language and objects, and the combination of her writings and poems with other elements. The resulting work is defined as " thoughts about the meaning of language, in a dense, poetic attempt to trace and explore a common ground between words and matter.

In recent years she has had solo exhibitions at Supportico Lopez, Berlin (2015), Combo Córdoba (ESP), M1 - Arthur Boskamp Stiftung in Hohenlockstedt (2013), Bard College in NY (USA, 2011). In addition, her work was included at group shows at Kavi Gupta Gallery in Chicago (USA), Raven Row, London (United Kingdom) (both 2015) at the Kunstverein Nürnberg as well as at the Kunstverein Tiergarten in Berlin Both from 2014). Natalie Hausle holds a degree in Fine Arts for the Bard College, NY and an Arts Bachelor degree from the University of Braunschweig, Germany.

**Sophie Jung** (Luxembourg, 1982) addresses representation and its traps, both cultural and personal, and systems of disguised and mutable signs, as a way of accompanying and recording life. Her work negotiates the interstices between form and affect, pragmatism and romance, between accuracy and fear. Jung's practice is rigorous, smooth and abstract, as well as emotionally involved, performative and overly literal;

The intersection of form, structure and rhythm with confusion, whimsical, disturbed and strangely sentimental is the underlying tone in her work, be it video, performance, sculpture, text or photography.

Exhibitions and individual projects include Sophie Jung, Dominique Lang Center for

Art, Dudelange, Luxembourg, 2014; 'Learning about Heraldry', Ceri Hand gallery, London, 2013; " 'Thou that Angel, ICA Luxembourg and Conference Center Neumünster, Luxembourg, 2013; "'I Like The Way I Cut The Apple, Looks Like A Photo Of My Mum', Gallerie L'Escale, Paris, 2012; toujours, Kunsthalle Mulhouse, Mulhouse, 2012 'Making Of', Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art "Electronic Rendezvous," "Freud, Künstler", Freiburg, Kunsthau L6, 2011, "Teenage Magazines", FOAM, Amsterdam, 2011, "Information und Erfahrung, Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg, "The Thrill of Collecting", Uovo Open Office, Basel, 2009. Sophie Jung received Aide à la création et la diffusion en photographie en 2011, was awarded the Levallois Photos Award in 2012, and was awarded the Luxembourg Edward Steichen Award 2013.

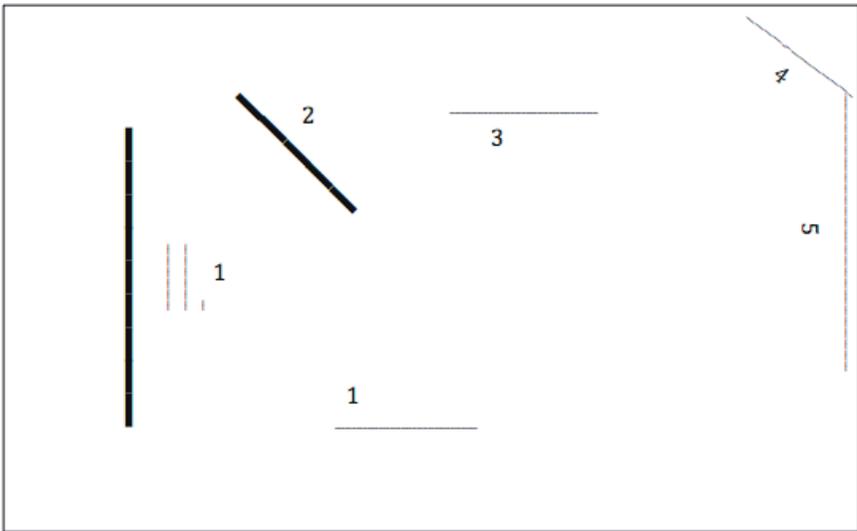
**Meggy Rustamova** (Georgia, 1985). In Rustamova's work the analysis of the word - its creation, formation and staging - is very evident. Her practice contains an inherent sense of humor, a mild sense of melancholy and sometimes complete absurdity, which reveals a specific sensibility in regards to language and narrativity. The stories that appear in her works are self-written and inhabit an alienated tale between fiction and reality.

A selection of recent projects include: 'Observations', Beursschouwburg, Brussels; 'How to gather', screening, 6th Biennale Moscow, Moscow: Videoarbeiten, individual

exhibition, Kunstraum für Bewegte Ideen, Düsseldorf; 'Displacement of all places', collective exhibition, Uqbar, Berlin; A space between words and images, cinema-w-o-l- k-e, Brussels; 'The Future of Memory', Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna.

**Florian Zeyfang** (Berlin, 1965). Since 2007, he works as a professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Umeå University. For many years he has worked with film and experimental video. In his videos, slideshows, and installations he explores the politics of form. Along the lines laid out by experimental film, his practice explores, in the language of a "minor medium," the possibilities of minimal narratives.

He has participated in exhibitions internationally, among them the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and Artists Space, New York; at the 2nd Tirana Biennial, ICA Moscow, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and Kunstverein Hannover, 6th Werkleitz Biennale in Halle and KW Berlin. In addition, he has developed curatorial projects including those for the 8th Havana Biennial, Fotofest in Houston, Museum für Angewandte Kunst Vienna, MAK Schindler House in Los Angeles, as well as the Swiss Institute in New York.



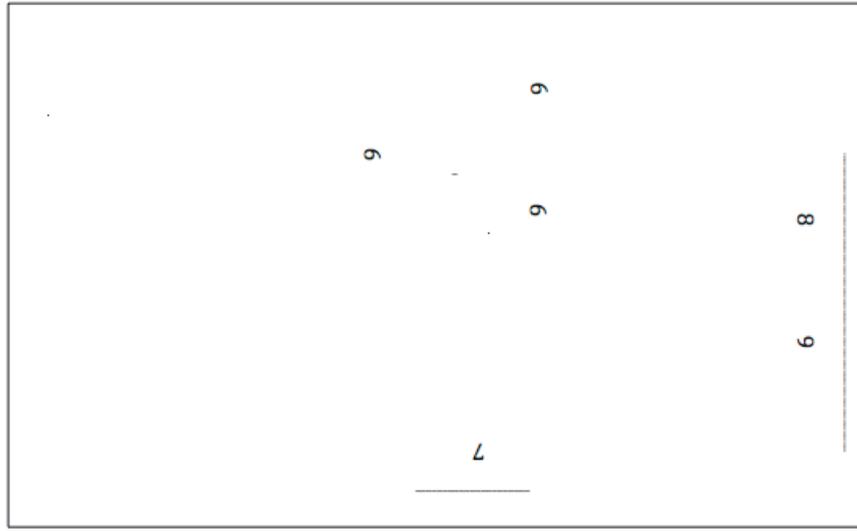
**1 Meggy Rustamova**  
*She he she she he, scripted plant*, Ongoing  
 Ficus elástica plants, text and sound  
 Dimensions variable  
 Courtesy of the artist

**2 Joana Escoval**  
*It arises not from any cause, but from the cooperation of many*, 2015  
 Pebbles, concrete, electric feet massager  
 Courtesy of the artist and Vera Cortés gallery

**3 Hannah Weinberger**  
*Basel 13*, 2016  
 HD video projection. 11'53"  
 Courtesy of the artist and Freedman Fitzpatrick

**4 Hannah Weinberger**  
*On Air*, 2017  
 HD video projection. 23'41"  
 Courtesy of the artist and Freedman Fitzpatrick

**5 Hannah Weinberger**  
*Basel 7*, 2016  
 HD video projection. 20'52"  
 Courtesy of the artist and Freedman Fitzpatrick



**6 Karlos Gil**  
*Output Instruments*, 2016  
 3D printing, Methyl methacrylate, aluminium, polymer plastic, laser-cut acrylic, plexiglas.  
 Installation incorporates different objects in every presentation Dimensions variable  
 Courtesy of the artist and garcía galería

**7 Natalie Häusler**  
*Excerpt (from Corals)*, 2015  
 Aquatic plants, wine bottles, water, laser print on paper, shelf, LED lights.  
 Courtesy of the artist and Supportico Lopez

**7 Natalie Häusler**  
*Excerpt (from Corals)*, 2015  
 Aquatic plants, wine bottles, water, laser print on paper, shelf, LED lights  
 Courtesy of the artist and Supportico Lopez

**8 Florian Zeyfang**  
*Stones: Rocks (Landscape)*, 2012  
 Slide projection  
 Courtesy of the artist

**9 Florian Zeyfang**  
*Stones: Pebbles (Isolation)*, 2012  
 Slide projection  
 Courtesy of the artist

