

Country SALTS, Remise

Opening Sunday, 9 June 2024, 10 PM
Exhibition until 25 September 2024
Country SALTS, Hof Strickmatt, Bennwil



Hunter Longe, Nastasia Meyrat, Anastasia Pavlou – Breathe In / Breathe Out

Curated by Samuel Leuenberger and Benedikt Wyss

The exhibition *Breathe In / Breathe Out* is based around a collection show that houses contemporary art from the last 23 years and which was mounted in 2023 for the first time. As part of an ongoing exploration of how the knowledge and view around it can evolve three artists were invited to intervene, insert themselves or amend parts of it. Hunter Longe, Nastasia Meyrat and Anastasia Pavlou were given carte blanche to do what they want, under one condition that no work could leave the room.

American, Swiss based artist Hunter Longe (b. 1985), works in range of mediums on pieces inspired by the properties and transformations of the materials they employ. First arriving into the space, his reaction was clear, to superimpose rather than move or remove works from the collection. „For the Dead, 2024“ comprises a long horizontal laser beam cutting through a wall like a horizon line that bisects various artworks. The green line also flows over small pieces of 152 million-year-old fossilised coral from the Jura, which the artist aligned along the light, adding a curious sculptural trace between the works. At the end of the green line, a second work, a swirling green dot, moves haphazardly around in a small radius - a reflection of the laser on some unseen source of water or just a glitch in an animation, its up to you to decide.

Swiss Artist Nastasia Meyrat (b. 1991) and three quirky sculptures are odd characters from a seemingly other world. Entitled "Where did the Sun go?", their center turns at random times, giving the impressions that they are communicating with one another and interconnecting the space almost like alien bodies, a small community, They could be any kind or shape of (living) body which read themselves almost like a surrealist image - part flower, part egghead, with their limb arms hanging from their body they bring light to the other pieces in the collection, while being staged. They almost take their roles as ushers guiding the visitors through the space and highlighting certain aspects of it. Consider them as figures that activate parts of the collection while staying politely out of it as the same time.

Through painting, drawing, and photography, Greek artist Anastasia Pavlou (b. 1991) who works out of Basel, constructs a visual vocabulary to explore ways of looking and of seeing, creating an atlas for how these ways are made manifest in images. Her intervention into the collection was one of painterly gesture. By removing a large part of the grand wall of paintings, lowering all the works on the floor level and turning a few select paintings around to stack them against the wall for at the same time to reveal the painterly gestures at the back of the canvas, she created a sort of abstract, monochromatic line of familial companions of works, fellow characters that co-exist in the same space that co-create situations and readings. Propped up against books, they are stacked, leaned and presented as if they muted the ensemble to a stiller introspection.

Works in the exhibition:

Hunter Longe
For the Dead, 2024
Fossilised coral (-152 Million years old, Jura CH), laser
Dimensions variable

Hunter Longe
Reflet sur la Fiolle, tributaire de la Suze, 2022
Projector, video loop
Dimensions variable

Nastasia Meyrat
Where did the sun go? 2024
Fabric, cardboard, mesh, wadding, wood, lighting system, cables
electric, papier-mâché
ca. 230 cm x 90 x 40 cm each

Anastasia Pavlou
Feelings, 2023
Oil, water, gesso on canvas
150 x 100 cm

Anastasia Pavlou
Untitled, 2024
Oil, water, gesso on canvas
150 x 100 cm

Anastasia Pavlou
Untitled, 2024
Oil, water, gesso on canvas
150 x 100 cm

The exhibition is supported by the Cultural Promotion Department BL and Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Art Council.