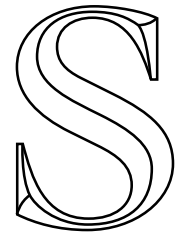


*The New Body*  
Astrit Ismaili  
Proposed by LambdaLambdaLambda  
24 March - 19 May 2018  
Opening Reception: Friday 23 March 2018, 6pm



SALTS presents *The New Body*, a solo exhibition by Amsterdam-based artist Astrit Ismaili, proposed by LambdaLambdaLambda, a contemporary gallery space established in 2015 in Pristina, Kosovo.

SALTS  
Hauptstrasse 12  
CH-4127 Birsfelden  
info@salts.ch  
+41 61 311 73 75

*The New Body* includes a live work performed by the artist on the occasion of the opening, of which the video recording is presented as a hologram in the exhibition space.

As a continuation of Ismaili's interest in using performance and theatrical channels to explore a body politic, the exhibition explores the role presence and absence play in articulating political gestures. Ismaili's use of hologram technology is propositional—extending the body beyond the standardised frames of representation through which we perceive race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and class. The shift from live to avatar performatives can thus be considered a way of relating to human bodies outside the temporal and spatial confines of performance. Central to Ismaili's interest in performance is how identities are constructed and interpreted through contemporary mechanisms, but also how they are heard, asking what it means to sonify a body politic. During the performance, sonic adjuncts installed onto the artist's body trigger different soundscapes as they move through the gallery. By translating the body's gestures into sound, the artist aims at disrupting prevailing narratives around representation, imagining new and utopic ways of thinking about how bodies inhabit and occupy space.

The work of Astrit Ismaili (\*1991 in Kosovo, lives and works in Amsterdam) evokes themes such as family, gender and transformation through intimate meta-theatrical performances. Ismaili graduated from the DasArts Graduate School in Amsterdam in 2016 and is the recipient of several awards, including the Young Visual Artist Award/Artist of Tomorrow Award (2011), Best Director at the Skena Up International Student Festival (2011) and Best Video Performance at Video Fest (2014). Recent performances include UNIKAT (with Suwane Jo) and *The Nymph*, NEU NOW Festival, Amsterdam (2017); and *NEMESIS*, Amsterdam Art Weekend, Juliette Jongma Gallery, Amsterdam (2017).

List of works, from left to right:  
Astrit Ismaili, *The New Body* (2018)  
Holocube, hologram, revolving stage, curtains  
Dimensions variable

Performance, instrument design, music: Astrit Ismaili  
Sound engineer/programmer: Jaromir Mulders  
Costume: Flaka Jahaj  
Instrument construction: Habib and Faton Hasani  
Instrument voice: Edona Vatoci  
Camera: Danny Noordanus  
Video editing: Naimé Perrette  
Text: Emily Kocken  
Organization: LambdaLambdaLambda  
Hosted, Produced: Digital Spring Festival 2018, Salzburg; SALTS, Birsfelden; Spring Performance Festival 2018, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Kunstverein Amsterdam; and LambdaLambdaLambda

SALTS would like to thank Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art and Migros Kulturprozent for the generous support.

The artist would like to thank Bryna Hellman, Krenare Rugova, Krenare Rakovica, Violeta Krasniqi, Dori Ukimeri, Matthijs Walhot and Tait Mandler