



Stadt Zürich
Kultur

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Press Release

Helmhaus Zürich

11 July to 30 August 2020

Press preview: Friday 10 July 2020, 11 a.m.
Please register for the press preview either by email or by phone (contact details above).

Vernissage: Due to the current situation, there will be no vernissage.

City of Zurich Art Grants Exhibition 2020

The City of Zurich Department of Visual Arts and Helmhaus are presenting works by Zurich artists whose applications for a work grant or studio residency in the year 2020 have passed the first round of adjudication. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic and its far-reaching consequences – especially for artists –, the available grants will be distributed equally among all the second-round participants.

The City of Zurich Art Grants are taking place this year under exceptional circumstances. For months, everyday life in our city has been affected by the lockdown. During that time, it quickly became clear that those in the field of arts and culture were particularly adversely affected by the impact of the pandemic. Exhibitions were suddenly closed or cancelled. Jobs were lost. Even those involved in arts promotion faced considerable challenges – as did the public, whose perceptions of art may perhaps have changed in light of a new reality.

While the current exhibition is therefore being held in a spirit of solidarity, it also marks the tentative return to a new and in many respects unfamiliar normality. This year, there will be no public opening or vernissage. Most importantly, given this year's extraordinary situation, in which many artists find their livelihoods threatened, the Mayor of Zurich, Corine Mauch, will be distributing the grants equally among all the artists. Instead of the usual programme of events and education outreach, efforts will be made to adapt to the guidelines intended to protect the health and well-being of all. For example, throughout the duration of the exhibition, there will be podcast discussions with the artists and other participants, available on our homepage www.helmhaus.org.

170 valid entries were submitted when the call for applications was announced by the City of Zurich. Of these, 35 made it through to the second round. The short-listed artists were each invited to present one work for the exhibition at Helmhaus Zürich, curated in 2020 by Esther Kempf (City of Zurich Fine Arts Commission) and Mirjam Bayerdörfer, freelance curator and artist. This year, in addition to the work grants, four studio residencies are being offered in Paris and Genoa. Given the exceptional circumstances, the jury has recommended that the residencies be awarded following the first round.

The Fine Arts Commission invited curator Yasmin Afschar (Aargauer Kunsthaut, Aarau) and freelance curator Andreas Fiedler to act as external jurors. Other members of the jury are the City of Zurich Fine Arts Commission members Roland Roos (artist), Sabine Rusterholz Petko (art historian and curator) and Sabine Schaschl (director of Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich). Instead of adjudicating the second round, this year's jury will put forward recommendations for acquisitions to the City of Zurich Fine Arts Commission.

At the press preview on 10 July 2020, representatives of the City of Zurich Arts and Culture Department and Helmhaus as well as the Fine Arts Commission will be available for a tour of the exhibition and to answer questions. The exhibition will be open to the public during regular hours from Saturday 11 July onwards.

Outreach concept and events

Due to current hygiene rules there are some changes this year:

Outreach concept: This year's concept for the room texts and accompanying artists' podcasts was devised by Ann-Kathrin Eickhoff, curator and co-editor of online art publication *Brand-New-Life* (www.brand-new-life.org). All the artists in the second round of the competition were sent a questionnaire drawn up by Ann-Kathrin Eickhoff. You can now read their answers in the roomsheets. The notion of putting questions to the artists and those supporting them also inspired the poster and invitations (design: Lydia Perrot).

In the course of the exhibition, the roomsheets will be complemented by podcasts of short conversations with the artists, published on the Helmhaus homepage. The conversations, hosted by jurors, arts commission members, the Helmhaus team and Ann-Kathrin Eickhoff, also follow the catalogue of questions regarding art production, its funding and promotion.

Performances: Throughout the duration of the exhibition, performance pieces submitted as competition entries will be staged. For dates and times, see our homepage.

«**Lieblinge der Herzen**»: As in the previous two years, the public will have the opportunity of voting for their favourite works. The three artists whose works have garnered the most interest will then talk about them in podcasts (from mid-August on the Helmhaus website).

Guided tours and impromptu events: You can check our homepage for the latest updates and information, or follow us on Instagram and Facebook (www.helmhaus.org, facebook.com/helmhauszuerich, Instagram: @helmhaus_zuerich).

For information on the exhibition and events, please contact Nathalie Killias, tel. 044 415 56 70 or email nathalie.killias@zuerich.ch.
Photographic material relating to the exhibition will be available from Friday 10 July 2020.

For information on arts funding and promotion and on the award of grants, please contact Vanessa Gendre, tel. 044 412 30 31 or email vanessa.gendre@zuerich.ch.