

URGENT PERSPECTIVES #3

Aa collections

Reindorfgasse 9/2/R01

1150 Wien

<http://www.aacollections.net/>

Opening: April 25, 2019, 7 pm

Exhibition: April 26 – May 04, 2019

Finissage: May 04, 6 pm: with a performance by Jianan Qu and Viltė Švarplytė

Artists

Elena Anosova* (RUS), Carla Cabanas* (PT), Jianan Qu (China/ A)

Curated by: Barbara Holub

Urgent Perspectives takes place at changing exhibition venues in Vienna as part of the AIR Mentoring Program of the Federal Chancellery / KulturKontakt Austria and uses existing networks and resources. After *Urgent Perspectives #1* (2017) in the project space Viktor Bucher, *Urgent Perspectives #2* (2018) at the alternative art fair PARALLEL VIENNA, *Urgent Perspectives #3* 2019 will be held in Aa collections in the 15th district. The artist run gallery is located in a former venue of a social housing, which opens a new context for "Urgent Perspectives".

The ambivalence of "urgent", i.e. what we perceive as short-term needs, and "perspectives" that are usually long-term, point to the contradiction with which we are confronted in our day-to-day actions. In *Urgent Perspectives*, the temporary status of AIR artists meets with the durational status of artists based in Vienna. The moment of the meeting is fluid and temporary. However, there is the possibility of a culmination of exchange, which extends beyond the brief encounter of an exhibition, stimulating a polylog between artists-in-residence of KulturKontakt Austria and Austrian artists in the future.

The different working methods and projects of the artists serve as a dispositive to reflect "urgent perspectives" from their respective backgrounds. Thus, the exhibition series becomes a cumulative process on issues of "urgency" and "perspectives" that reflect the spectrum of personal artistic concerns to far-reaching societal, economic and environmental issues of society.

The work of Elena Anosova, Carla Cabanas and Jianan Qu, in particular, discusses the role that the media play in our time in various ways. Elena Anosova refers to Marshall McLuhan, who in 1964 coined in "Understanding Media" the distinction between "hot media" (which does not actively involve the viewer, e.g. radio and film) and "cool media" (in which the viewer can intervene). More than half a century later, the "cool media" via

social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have become a compulsion to permanent communication and self-expression, on the basis of which the "status" is measured by the "friends" community and in society. With short and often demagogic messages, social media now have a greater impact than conventional media, which feel obliged to a differentiated reporting and substantiated information content due to research.

How the individual interacts with the intricate web of informational content, and what responsibility the individual assumes for the community, is reflected in the works in the ever-renewed tension between privacy and intimacy (Carla Cabanas), the exposure of self (Jianan Qu) and self-reflection (Elena Anosova). *Urgent Perspectives #3* also refers to the original function of the exhibition space on a parallel level, which was an important infrastructure for the social housing it belongs to and is now being given a new role by being used as a gallery.

Carla Cabana's *"Eclipse"* hides private photos found at a flea market in a non-visible light box. Through the mysterious and poetic installation, the photos interrogate the meaning of harmless situations, the background of which we know nothing about. The Greek word "Eclipse" means "to leave", "to darken", "to cease to exist". In a figurative sense, "Eclipse" refers to the act of making something disappear. However, this phenomenon of disappearance - at least in its astronomical appearance - is a temporary one. In "Eclipse" Carla Cabanas has the trace appear instead of a picture.

Elena Anosova builds on her complex project *"Beyond the Boundaries"* (Yekaterinburg, 2017). For *Urgent Perspectives #3* Elena Anosova develops a sculpture that refers to the historical context and the original function of a well, which also served as the public meeting place of the villagers in their native Siberia. The rectangular shape of the fountain, with a mirror on the bottom, is taken up by Elena Anosova as reference to Instagram and the exponentially growing amount of information, in which viewers are mirrored as a contemporary "Narcissus", being exposed on the border between the macrocosm and the microcosm. The artist questions our treatment of information, technologies and "extensions" as prostheses, as extensions of our body in space, and thus anthropocentrism, which serves as an essential point of reference for defining spheres of knowledge.

Jianan Qu exposes his own body in *"feed up time"* as a pizza base, which is ready as "fast food", to be occupied by quick information, which we are fed every day, among others, by free magazines in Vienna subways. As a Chinese artist who has been living in Austria since 2003, the issue of dissemination of information (also with regard to restrictive regimes such as those currently in China) is a controversial topic. His naked body becomes the container and deliverer of "fast media", as serving body, who can not even see, let alone receive, the information that is being presented to him. "Voices are just manipulated toys. Our views are hardly our own. Gathering information is so interesting that we could find or lose our identity at the same time. No one escapes." (Jianan Qu)

* The Austrian Federal Chancellery, in cooperation with KulturKontakt Austria, offers residence scholarships in Vienna. The scholarship recipients are funded by the Austrian Federal Chancellery within the framework of the artists-in-residence program and supported by KKA in an advisory and organizational capacity.

By participating in the event, you give us permission to publish image and video recordings that have been made to document the event.

Biographies

Elena Anosova (*1983, Irkutsk)

Lives and works between Moskau and Irkutsk.

Her work explores especially subjects of isolation and borders. Elena Anosova is a member of MAPS (www.mapsimages.com) and she lectures at the Rodchenko Art School (Moskau), The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moskau) and at the Academy Fotografika (St.Petersburg).

Selected shows: 2018 „Out-of-the-way“, Schilt Publishing & Gallery, Amsterdam (NL); The 6th LUMIX-Festival, Hannover (D); Strategic project of the 6th Moscow International Biennale for Young Art “Please, thank you, I’m sorry”, NCCA, Moskau (RUS); „Connections“, Gallery Kvaka 22, Belgrade Photo Month (Serbia); 2017 «[Beyond The Boundaries](#)», Metenkov's House Museum, Ekaterinburg (RUS); 2016 „[Section](#)“, Photo-Eye Gallery, Santa Fe (USA).

Selected awards: World Press Photo, [Center Project](#), [LensCulture](#), [Garage Museum's Grant Program for Emerging Artists](#).

<http://anosova.com/>

Carla Cabanas (*1979, Lissabon)

Lives and works in Lisbon.

Carla Cabanas's work revolves around the methodologies of stretching the defined borders of the photography medium while dwelling on the issues of collective and cultural memory.

Selected shows: 2019: Museu Coleção Berardo, Lissabon (PT); 2018: Biennale de l'Image Tangible, Paris (F); Grimmuseum, Berlin (D); Centre D'art Contemporain, Meymac (F); GlogauAIR, Berlin (D); 2017 Fundação Eugénio de Almeida, Évora (PT); Gallery Carlos Carvalho - Arte Contemporânea, Lissabon; Castello Visconteo Di Legnano, Milano (I); Panal 361, Buenos Aires (Argentina); 2016 Ox Warehouse, Macau (China); 7ª BIENAL INTERNACIONAL DE SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE, 2013; Espaço CACAU in São Tomé and Príncipe, 2013.

Selected awards: Photography Prize Purificacion Garcia, 2012 (Honorable Mention); Ariane de Rothschild Painting Award, 2005 (3rd prize).

Collections: PLMJ Foundation Collection, BES ART Collection, Banque Privée Edmond de Rothschild Europe, LPS Collection (Stanislas y Leticia Poniatowski) sowie private Sammlungen.

www.carlacabanas.com

Jianan Qu (*1985 in Shandong/China)

Lives and works in Vienna and Linz.

Jianan Qu is an interdisciplinary artist who works with performance, installation, objects and video. His performances are conceptual, reduced and minimal, which at the same time have an immense visual impact. He was visiting professor at the University of Applied Arts Vienna (2018) and he lectures at Anton Bruckner Private University in Linz. Selected shows: 2019 Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel (D); Organhaus Chongqing (China); Trinity Laban, London (UK); 2018 Krinzinger Lesehaus (Galerie Krinzinger), Untermarkersdorf (A); 2017 Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art Budapest (H); 2016 Vienna Art Week (A); Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Vienna (A); Landesgalerie Linz (A); 2015 Oslo LUX (N); 2010 Hong Kong Arts Festival; 2006 ImpulsTanz Vienna (A).

In 2017 Jianan Qu founded *medo space* (<http://www.medo.co.at/>) together with the Vienna based Chinese curator Hongwei Duan, and curated a series of exhibitions in the frame of The BLANKETs Program.

<http://jiananqu.com>