

# KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Berlin, May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the opening of the following exhibitions:

HEEZA BAHC / ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR  
CAROLA SPADONI / MANAMI UETAKE / TIMUR ÇELİK  
ARTISTS SUPPORT UKRAINE

Exhibition: 19TH MAY – 12TH JUNE 2022

Vernissage: 19th May, from 7 to 10 pm

Tuesday - Sunday 14 – 19h

Showroom Kottbusser Straße 10, 10999 Berlin

ATELIERS UND BÜROS: Kohlfurter Straße 41-43 · 10999 Berlin · SCHAURAUM: Kottbusser Straße 10

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RECHTSFORM: Künstlerhaus Bethanien GmbH · SITZ: Berlin · AG Charlottenburg

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: Christoph Tannert · Andrea Boche · HANDELSREGISTER: HRG 8089

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## HEEZA BAHC

Short talk on why some people find  exciting

The exhibition *Short talk on why some people find  exciting* conveys thoughts and attitudes toward to life through stairs and the movement up and down on it which are always around us but unrecognized.

A staircase is an architectural element with a simple structure in which the same elements are repeated. It connects different spaces, but also exists as an independently, separate space. To borrow the words of the artist, stairwells could be defined as a connecting passage with no clear beginning or end, and also as floating spaces. Gaston Bachelard also said in his book *La poetique de l'espace* (1957) that a path emerges symbolically from this neutral character of the staircase.

BAHC's concerns about her status as an artist started from the stairways of Künstlerhaus Bethanien, and was conveyed through two performers, namely a mime artist and a percussionist living in Berlin. BAHC hopes that someone walking around the exhibition hall will be able to reflect on their center while feeling the sense of their feet when climbing the stairs.

In this way, BAHC reproduces existing things with the camera, while creating a narrative through the artist's intervention in the images. The work begins by approaching what she experiences with a slightly twisted perspective, not to vaguely convey her personal experience, but to capture the center from which the idea arose. In this way, **BAHC** documents thoughts derived from a situation or space as a photographer.

HEEZA BAHC has exhibited in numerous institutions including: Yangju City Chang-Ucchin Museum, In-cheon art platform, Space Onsue, Songeun art space, Shin-han bank Gallery, Goeun Museum of Photography, Sangsang-madang Seoul and Chun-cheon, Insa Art Space. She has been a grantee of various artist-in-residence programs: Incheon Art Platform, 777 residency of Yanju city Chang Ucchin Museum of Art, Space can Old-house.

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HEEZA BAHC is a grantee of the Arts Council Korea, Korea.

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## ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR

ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR (b.1980) is a multidisciplinary artist working at the intersections of installation, sculpture, and photography. Her work explores the phenomenology of experiential perception, spatial emptiness and conceptual openness while foregrounding peripheral, relational, and embodied aspects of the artistic encounter.

HANSDÓTTIR's immersive, site-specific installations leverage sensory limitations, spatial reconfiguration, distortions of scale, and optical illusions that alter the viewers' perceptions of space. By thrusting the viewers into liminal uncertainty about what they are perceiving and why it feels subtly different, Hansdóttir draws out the viewers' reflexive awareness of their own presence within the aesthetic encounter.

The installation *Eigenzeit* comprises semi-transparent fabric hanging from seven intersecting curved rails. Each piece of fabric is printed with custom geometric patterns, which are typically printed on identity documents and currency to prevent forgery. ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR integrates photographs of scale models of the installation, which are interspersed throughout the piece, along with gold-plated clover leaves. Like HANSDÓTTIR's earlier work, the installation plays with distortions of scale and visual deconstruction. Leveraging these processes, HANSDÓTTIR defamiliarizes the common imagery of value, legitimacy, authenticity and engineered scarcity to heighten the viewers' awareness of their own presence in the gallery space as they navigate through the installation.

HANSDÓTTIR's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart Berlin, ZKM Karlsruhe, Martha Herford, Frieze Projects, The Marrakech Biennale, The Reykjavik Art Museum and the National Gallery of Iceland. In 2016 she was awarded the Optimism Award for Culture, the patron of which is the President of Iceland, as well as the Gudmunda S.Kristinsdottir Art Prize, founded by artist Erró.

ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR is a grantee of the Icelandic Art Center, Island.

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## CAROLA SPADONI TPF&VA n.0

During her residency, CAROLA SPADONI worked specifically on the research project *Archiving the Peripatetic Film & Video collection*: a collection of film and video footage shot by the artist since the late 1980s, employing a practice of using the camera as a diary, a sketchbook, and a tool of engagement and contemplation. Her work deals with moving images, narration, intersectional theories and practices, and institutional critique.

*TPF&VA n.0* the first manifestation of the archive as a platform, will exhibit segments of footage alongside a new edited work. The selected segments, mainly crowds of people and landscapes, propose a gathering of what has been missing in the recent pandemic times: a chance to contemplate and engage with the frictions of its aftermath. *Chiapas EZLN/Genova G8, senza rivoltelle, 1996-2021* brings forward the issues and potency of the so called no-global movement, as a still urgent collective claim to re-enchant the world. *TPF&VA n.0* looks at how past, present and futures can be dealt with, as the Zapatistas and subcomandante Marcos say with “a culture that would rebuild everything”. Custom-made screens and monitors host the footage, alongside drawings and diagrams from the research and studio work that led to the conception of the archive’s website. The screens, conceived as drawing commentaries on ornamental patterns and centered perspectives, shape the space into a unique gathering place.

*The Peripatetic Film & Video Archive TPF&VA* is a living platform whose formats and contributions change according to the contexts and venues in which it operates. The project expands through the ongoing commoning of the footage, texts, itineraries and cartographies. *TPF&VA* is based on criteria of personal and professional life experiences, feminist practices, political and cultural activism, D.I.Y. inventions, independent filmmaking resources, and non-hierarchical, dialogical working processes. It aims to contribute to intersectional methods of archiving, generating an accessible tool for emancipatory knowledge.

CAROLA SPADONI is an Italian artist and filmmaker based in Berlin. She has exhibited and screened at the Berlinale, Forum section (2002), the 50th Venice Biennial (2003), Sesc Paulista in São Paulo (2008), OCAT in Shanghai (2015), and La Galleria Nazionale in Rome (2017). Her work is in private and public collections, among which is the MAXXI museum of contemporary art in Rome. Recent awards include from the Italian Council 9 and the Stipendien Sonderprogramm der Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa (2020).

The project is supported by the Italian Council (9th edition, 2020), a program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world implemented by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture.

With the cultural partnership for digitization of La Camera Ottica (DIUM, Udine).



[www.theperipateticfilmmandvideoarchive.net](http://www.theperipateticfilmmandvideoarchive.net)

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## MANAMI UETAKE

### Vorbei ist nicht vorüber

*Vorbei ist nicht vorüber* is a visual exploration of the interaction of an individual or a society with their past and history. This project takes its title from the author Elias Canetti's pithy sentence "*Vorbei ist nicht vorüber (gone is not over)*." He concisely formulated the necessity for a culture of remembrance with this parody of the German proverb "*vorbei ist vorbei (gone is gone)*."

*Stolpersteine* is one of the famous examples of existing practice related to the culture of remembrance. It is a sett-size concrete cube bearing a brass plate inscribed with the name and biographical dates of victims of Nazi persecution or extermination. German artist Gunter Demnig initiated *Stolpersteine* project in 1992 to commemorate individuals.

The artist MANAMI UETAKE had researched *Stolpersteine* in Berlin and included the outcomes in her exhibition.

As a multimedia artist, MANAMI UETAKE works with photography, video, text, and installation. Her works deal with intimacy and personal narratives, presented through visual documentation of private conversations and collected recordings of individual, experiences. UETAKE is interested in how we can share the memory of others personally and publicly, particularly in terms of a culture of remembrance.

MANAME UETAKE is a grantee of the POLA Art Foundation, Japan.

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## TIMUR ÇELİK Komm nach Hause

TIMUR ÇELİK, born in Gümüşhane (Turkey) in 1960, lives and works in Berlin.

ÇELİK studied painting at Marmara University in Istanbul in the early 1980s and has since participated in group exhibitions at the Max Liebermann Haus, Berlin and the Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, among others, as well as presenting works in numerous solo exhibitions in Istanbul, Ankara and Berlin, not least at Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

ÇELİK 's small-format painting *Komm nach Hause* was created directly under the impression of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It shows a full-grown bear that has grabbed a marksman by the upper right arm with its mouth and is lifting him off the ground with one paw. The marksman, dressed only in army pants and boots, holds a precision rifle in front of his bare torso. He is easily recognizable as Russian President Vladimir Putin, just as the latter has had himself photographed several times as a wiry macho and nature lover, riding or fishing, for representative purposes.

ÇELİK 's Siberian brown bear seems to have sprung from a Russian fairy tale. It dominates this insidious image as the symbolic figure of a rebellious force that, by snatching the hunter and taking him back to its own territory, seems to set an impulse critical of power and Russia.

With the kind support of the State of Berlin - Senate Department for Culture and Europe.



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## ARTISTS SUPPORT UKRAINE

Valery Veduta, Hana Hrabarska, Masha Shubina, Anna Naduda, Vlada Ralko, Mikhail Reva, APL315, Alevtina Kakhidze, Oleksiy Sai, Sasha Kovaleva, Maria Kulikovska

**The ASU Foundation** was launched in 2014 (beginning of the war in Donbass and annexation of Crimea) by art curator Katya Taylor and Vladimir Kadygrob and was reactivated in 2022 when Putin started a full-scale war in Ukraine. The activity aims to support the Ukrainian cultural community, including artists, actors, singers, art managers, etc. who are giving huge informational and emotional support to Ukrainians every minute, wherever they are: defending, volunteering, hiding in bomb shelters or continuing creating art.

The foundation collected artworks by established representatives of Ukrainian contemporary art – 9 artists and 2 photographers, who are in Ukraine right now (the list includes Alevtina Kakhidze, Vlada Ralko, Olexiy Sai, Mikhail Reva). All the works have been created during the war, since it started in 2014, and are supported by the personal stories of the Russian invasion on February, 24, 2022.

With all these artistic voices, we are calling upon the whole world to Stand With Ukraine.

**VALERY VEDUTA**, born in 1983, is a Kyiv-based contemporary photographer, shooting on film in a documentary and fine art style. In 2017 he completed the course “Photography” at Victor Marushchenko School. In 2018, he attended the course run by Sasha Rudenko. His works have been published in Vogue.it, Vogue, Vogue.ua, Fashionweek.ua, Bird in flight, Harper’s Bazaar, Officiel-online.

His photobook, “Gray Contour“, features a series of landscapes that were shot in 2017 – 2019 in The Arabat Spit, located between the Henichesk Strait to the north and the north-eastern shores of Crimea to the south.

Most recently, Veduta has been documenting his family’s journey during the war. Starting with their move to the parking garage of an apartment building, and now as they flee to Lviv, Veduta’s candid and heartfelt imagery shows in real time what life is like under Putin’s attack.

Now in Lviv.

**HANNA HRABARSKA**, born in 1986, Kryvyi Rih, photographer. She shoots portraits and reportages in Europe, USA, Japan, India and her studio. Anya’s portfolio includes works for Ballantine’s, TEDx Kyiv, Kachorovska, Asthetique, IZlbank, Firefly Aerospace, Mumiy Troll, Sergey Zhadan, DJ Nastia. Now in the Netherlands.

**MASHA SHUBINA**, born in 1979, is a Ukrainian postwar & contemporary painter. In 2003, she graduated from the National Academy of Arts and Architecture in Kyiv. She has worked as an architect and is considered one of the most prominent Ukrainian contemporary artists. Numerous key galleries and museums such as Winzavod Contemporary Art Center have featured Masha Shubina’s work in the past. Now in Ukraine.

**ANNA NADUDA**, born in 1983, is a multidisciplinary artist and secret gardener. Main scope – graphics, sculpture, site specific work, land-art. Education: National Academy of Art and Architecture, Kyiv. More info: <https://www.anna-naduda.com/about/>  
Now in Ukraine.

**VLADA RALKO**, born in 1969. Lives and works in Kyiv. One of the most famous expressionists in independent Ukraine. Participant in more than 50 republican and international exhibitions across Ukraine, as well as at the SCOPE Art Show in Miami Beach, the Lincoln Center in New York City, the Dallas Art Fair, and galleries in Germany and Austria.  
In 1994 she graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture (Department of panel painting, supervised by V. Shatalin). Since 1994, she has been a member of the National Artists’ Union of Ukraine.

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**MIKHAIL REVA**, born in 1960. Ukrainian artist, sculptor, architect, jewelry craftsman, the founder of a non-profit organization – REVA Foundation, co-founder of a charitable organization, " Buduschee" ('The Future'), a rehabilitation center for children named after Boris Litvak. More info: Mikhail Reva. Now in Croatia.

**APL315**, Ukrainian artist and graffiti artist, was born in Odessa in 1986. He started out, in the second half of the 2000s, as a member of the small local youth subculture of graffiti artists, and very early in his career succeeded in breaking into the museum and gallery scene. In this context, in the second half of the 2010s, a serious shift took place in APL315's artistic explorations. Armed with bravery learnt on the graffiti scene, a readiness for new challenges, and the habit of long graffiti "raids" in the open air, Apl315 didn't abandon the street entirely, but began using alternative media when creating new works. APL315's most recent projects are dedicated to the war-torn areas of Eastern Ukraine and the Balkans. In his large-scale multimedia installations, the artist asks questions about the fragility of modern-day ecosystems and uncovers the deep historical traumas of Eastern and Central-Southern Europe. Now in Odessa.

**ALEVTINA KAKHIDZE**, born 1973 in Zhdanivka, Donetsk Region. Lives and works in Muzychi village, Kyiv Region. Winner of the competition for young artists and curators, Centre for Contemporary Art at NaUKMA, in 2002. In 2008, she received the Kazimir Malevich Artist Award. Scholarship holder at the Jan van Eyck Academie (Maastricht, Netherlands), participated at Iaspis Open House (Stockholm, Sweden) artist residence, and Centre for Contemporary Art "Ujazdowski Castle" (Warsaw, Poland). Co-founder of a private residence for foreign artists in Muzychi village and the online art publication project: kram.in.ua. More info: Alevtina Kakhidze [alevtinakakhidze.com](http://alevtinakakhidze.com) Alevtina Kakhidze. Now in Muzychi.

**OLEKSIY SAI**, born 1975. Lives and works in Kyiv, Ukraine. In 1993 he graduated from Kyiv College of Commercial Art, as a graphic designer. In 2001, he graduated from the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Architecture, as a graphic artist. More info: Oleksii Sai. Now in Ukraine.

**SASHA KOVALEVA**, born in 1984 in Crimea, Ukraine. Lives in Kyiv, works with paintings. More info: Sasha Kovaleva <https://aleksandrakovaleva.com/about-me/>. Now in Paris.

**MARIA KULIKOVSKA**, born in 1988 in the city of Kerch, Ukraine. Graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv, Ukraine. From 2016 to 2017, she studied at the Royal Institute of Fine Arts, Stockholm, Sweden. Participant in the project MUHi 2011. Nominated for the Pinchuk Art Prize 2013. Author of architectural projects (in particular, Shcherbenko Art Center building) in Ukraine, Switzerland and China. She has held lectures and workshops on contemporary art in Kyiv (VCRC, Bottega gallery, PinchukArtCentre), Donetsk (IZOLYATSIYA), Dnipro, Liverpool and Malmö. Now in Austria.

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