

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

Queer Sex Workers On *EXISTING AND LONGING*

08.04. – 30.04.2023

As queer sex workers, there is something very unique about our perspectives – on sexuality and gender, intimacy and desire, bodies and needs, freedom and autonomy, inequality and constraint, money and work. Most of the time, our stories are told by outsiders who hold more power, pressing us into narrow moulds that leave no room for the nuances of our existence. There are only two possible narratives about us: one is about empowerment, the other is about coercion. Either we evoke contempt, or pity. At best, we're idealized. Sometimes we even fall into this trap ourselves: idealization out of self-defence. Often we choose to remain silent.

What stories are we telling if we don't smooth over cracks, bumps and blemishes for others to digest? What stories are we telling if we don't try to be compliant? What are you going to hear if you truly listen with open curiosity?

EXISTING AND LONGING is a declaration of love for queer sex workers, an ongoing quest, a collective archive of experiences, wisdoms and visions, and an invitation to be surprised.

Tia Morgen created an audio collage and Polaroid series from interviews with 31 LGBTQIA+ sex workers who work on the streets, in brothels, erotic massage parlors and strip clubs, as escorts, porn performers, and digital sex workers.

EXISTING AND LONGING deals with sex, sexuality, gender, violence, discrimination and oppression – explicitly, honestly and without shame. The exhibition does so in a way that values each individual experience and creates space for growth and healing.

Polaroid Series, Audio Collage & Curation: Tia Morgen

Voice Acting: Alice Danger, Cat, Lina Bembe, Robin Astera, Smo Sienkiewicz, Sulema Vasquez

Recording, Editing & Post-Production: Izzy Ment & Tia Morgen

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