

'WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?' EXCLAIMS NICOLE RICHIE IN THE INTRO TO THE SIMPLE LIFE, THE ICONIC EARLY AUGHTS REALITY SERIES IN WHICH SHE AND PARIS HILTON GO TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE (READ: RURAL ARKANSAS) - MANNERISMS AND ANTICS INTACT. CATAPULTED INTO MAINSTREAM CONSCIOUSNESS BY VIRTUE OF PARIS' LEAKED SEXTAPE, THE TWO NYC PERSONAS SHAPED THE DOMINANT CULTURAL FORM OF THEIR TIME: THEY WERE FAMOUS FOR BEING FAMOUS. WE'RE CLEARLY NOT THERE ANYMORE. THE QUESTION IS: WHERE THE HELL ARE WE NOW?

FROM THE VISIONS OF BRITISH OCCULTIST ALEISTER CROWLEY'S THE BOOK OF THE LAW [1909] ('EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IS A STAR') TO THE '90S CULTURAL FORMATION THROUGH THE CONSUMPTION OF BRANDED ITEMS AND SUBCULTURAL AFFILIATION, IDENTITY SPRINGS FORTH FROM THE INDIVIDUAL. JUST A MOMENT AGO, THE CULTURAL PARADIGM SHIFTED TO US - THE MAIN CHARACTERS - CREATING OUR OWN LORE, LE GRAND ARC OF THE SELF, DISSEMINATED SELECTIVELY IN THE REALMS OF THE ONLINE. IN ORDER TO LIVE, WE MYTHOLOGISE; A SURVIVALIST PLOT CONFLATED WITH AGENCY. AND NOW, SET FORTH, BRAVE WARRIOR.

IF EVERY CRISIS IS A COLLAPSED NARRATIVE, WE ARE LEFT WONDERING WHAT WILL SOON UNFOLD. WITH SUPERSTARS ATTEMPTING THE DESTRUCTION OF IDENTITY ALTOGETHER (THINK DEMNA GVASALIA AND KIM K AT THE MET GALA 2021, OR ALMOST ALL RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES OF YE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS KANYE WEST), IDENTITY MIGHT BE THE VERY THING THAT ALREADY IS IN DEEP CRISIS.

SO, WHERE THE HELL ARE WE NOW? AS GLOBAL NARRATIVES COLLAPSE AROUND US, WE LOOK TOWARDS THE HORIZON: WITHOUT IT, THERE IS NO HERE - THERE IS NO YOU. AS WE LOOK ABOVE, WE NOTICE A SHIMMERING NIGHT SKY, WHERE THE GLOWING DEBRIS OF EVERY COLLAPSED WORLDING FORMS INTO A CONSTELLATION OF STARS; SOME SMALLER ONES, AND SOME OF THEM LARGER. THE STARS OF NARRATIVES PAST, TONIGHT THEY SHINE SO BRIGHT FOR US - A SOLEMN REMINDER THAT THE BEGINNING IS ALWAYS AT THE END.

THIS IS THE INSTRUCTION: WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO HORIZON - THERE IS NO WORLD.

TEXT BY: JAN BERGER

# BPA//

## 1000 JAHRE SIND EIN TAG

29.4. – 10.06.2023

JAN BERGER, JOHANNES BÜTTNER, GRAYSON EARLE, TIAN GUOXIN, SIMONE MINE KOZA AND MANESS TRANSFORM BPA// RAUM INTO A SPACE THAT SIMULATES AN ALTERNATIVE RULESET OF OUR WORLD'S KNOWN PHYSICS.

FOLLOWING THE LOGIC OF VIDEO GAMES AND WORLD SIMULATION, THE SPACE WILL PHASE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK AT AN ACCELERATED PACE, TURNING ONE DAY INTO A SINGLE HOUR. EACH ARTIST SUBMITS TO THE RULES OF THE SPACE, PRESENTING NEW WORK CREATED ON THE BASIS OF THE CHANGING LIGHT CONDITIONS, RESEMBLING THE CYCLE OF DAY AND NIGHT, THIS TEMPORALITY FORMS THE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE ARTWORKS ARE PERCEIVED. THE ARTISTS ARE AUTHORS OF THIS ARTIFICIAL ECOSYSTEM, THEIR WORK A RESULT OF ITS PSYCHOLOGY AND VISITORS AT BPA// RAUM ARE APPOINTED PLAYERS IN THIS SCENARIO.

Jan Berger - *Great Plateau*, 2023  
Photo transfer on canvas, 160 x 110 cm each

Johannes Büttner - *Ein Stundenschlag*, 2023  
Cotton candy, metal, concrete, cable ties  
*Untitled*, 2023  
Ceramic, in collaboration with Caroline Bertram

Grayson Earle - *Pipe World*, 2023  
Video, clay

Tian Guoxin - *Grandpa's painted eyebrow bird 01 to ∞*, 2023  
Soundtrack (voice character: Liu Chao; bird singing in the twilight: Hwamei singing), sound controllers; soft toys with childhood npc bird, cage bar tapes, 60:00 min

Simone Miné Koza - *ProFile*, 2023  
3D animation, video projection, looped  
*Next to you*, 2023  
Inkjet prints, 29.7 x 42 cm each

Maness - *No por mucho madrugar amanece más temprano (Not because you wake up earlier, the sun will rise sooner)*, 2023  
Light installation, 15:00 min phases  
LED stripes, merino wadding, vinyl, PETG, projector, various dimensions

BPA// Raum  
Sophie-Gips-Höfe 21  
10178 Berlin  
Enter through red passageway  
Opening hours: Fri–Sat 15:00–18:00  
During Gallery Weekend Berlin: Sat–Sun, 11:00–19:00

BPA// Raum is a platform for artistic exchange. Exhibitions are made by artists affiliated with BPA// Berlin program for artists and organized by Sophia Yvette Scherer and Anna-Lisa Scherfose.

BPA// Berlin program for artists is an artist-run mentoring program founded in 2016 by Angela Bulloch, Simon Denny and Willem de Rooij. It facilitates exchange between emerging and experienced Berlin-based artists. BPA// is a cooperation partner of KW Institute for Contemporary Art. The program is funded by the Senate for Culture and Europe.