

Brigham Baker - „Relationships“

12.9.-17.10.2020, Opening 11.9.2020, 6-9pm

Taking out the trash, I noticed, through the evergreen overgrown fence, my neighbour. He was proudly wearing his worn, yet spotless, Stadt Zurich Entsorgung und Recycling work shirt. He has two brown rabbits and he tends to the garden around his house. The grill is crackling and the rabbit's eyes are red like the moon. Fences keep the foxes away from the rabbits and make the neighbour's grass greener than one's own. Standing and slowly decaying, fences become one with the earth and the vegetation. Only to be removed again, masterfully and with incredible ease, to then be recycled, recoated and displaced. Displaced to keep more foxes away from more rabbits.

One doesn't have to be a molecular biologist to know that everything around us is made of cells. Preaching the survival of the fittest, Darwin seems to have invented the motto of the neoliberal state of mind, where the grass is always greener over the fence. But isn't the will of the cell to find its own balance really more of a symbiosis, a co-existence and co-evolution – cells adapting to one another and responding to their environment? I wonder if there were no fence, would all grass be the same hue of green?

Would there be balance or does even the idea of it seem as ungraspable as capturing the fluff of a thistle? That soft feathery material that protects the seeds and then flies off and travels miles and miles, transporting them and conquering places far from its home. The thistle, a true nomad. Soft, ungraspable, unmovable, unlesable, evermost, almost, void.

Fair enough, neighbourly love is not self-evident. Some are more fenced off than others, fenced off into their own systems of beliefs. Building fences has never been as easy as today and the simple touch of a flower can seem invasive to some. Broken fences get mended, layers upon layers, hole after hole.

And taking out the trash a couple of days and some overturned fences later, I realise, but not at once, that something has changed – the fence is gone, disappeared like the thistle fluff. And my neighbour, fenceless, in a brand new Stadt Zurich Entsorgung und Recycling t-shirt, smiling.

Kristina Grigorjeva

Brigham Baker

*1989, Nipomo, California, lives and works in Zürich

Awards

Werkbeitrag Kanton Zürich; Kiefer Häblitzel Prize; ZHdK Förderpreis;
Prix Mobilière (nominated); Manor Kunstpreis

Education

2012-2015 BA Photography ZHdK; 2016-2019 MA Fine Arts FHNW HGK

Selected Exhibitions

2020

Brigham Baker – Relationships, annex14

„It's only Moonlight", annex14

Prix Mobilière, Art Genève, Genève

„Habitat", Biennale de Morcote, Morcote

„neither the either nor the or are places to be", Palazzina, Basel (solo w. Nina Rieben)

2019

Manor Kunstpreis. Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur

„Protect me from what I want", Kunsthalle St. Gallen

„I- Hood", Degree Show, Kunsthaus Baselland, Muttenz

„Cette Question qui vous brûle les lèvres, Centre d'art Neuchâtel

"If It Moves, It's Outmoded"? Kunstraum am Schauplatz, Wien, AT

2018

On the Road, 10 Jahre Caravan, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aargau

Swiss Art Awards, Kiefer Häblitzel

„So sieht der Hase", annex14, Zürich

The Photographic – Zürcher Hochschule der Künster, Museum Folkwang Essen

Brigham Baker „To break rock for Bread", Ausst.raum Kantonsschule Zürich Nord (solo)

2017

"Phaenomena Materiae" Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, (solo w/ Esther Mathis)

"Arresting Fragments of the World", Kunsthau Langenthal

"Stones Land where they are thrown", Galerie GMK, Zagreb (solo)

Werkbeitrag, Haus Konstruktiv

„Surely Very Early Men Just sat Under Native Palms", LA RADA, Locarno (solo w/ Alan Bogoda)

2016

„Meaning Can Only Grow out of Intimacy" Les Urbaines, Espace Arlaud, Lausanne

„Jeune Art Suisse, Prix Kiefer Häblitzel XII", Le Commun-Mamco, Genève

„Other Natures", Kulturfolger, Jules Mæght Gallery, San Francisco,

"Reworking Lindt" Gepäckausgabe, Glarus (solo)

Swiss Art Awards, Kiefer Häblitzel, Basel

"Broilmarié", UP STATE, Zürich, (w/ Lila de Magalhães)

"Plattform 16", Wäldcheturm, Zürich

UP STATE at Paramount Ranch, Los Angeles

2015

Degree Show, University of the Arts, Zürich

2014

„ZRH-KRZ" Kunstraum Kreuzlingen

„Courting Aporia" Alte Fabrik, Rapperswil

„Shavshvebi - Main Square" Shavshvebi, Georgia, 2 week group residency

„As The Day Unfolded" Rothaus, (Solo w/ Anina Yoko Gantenbein)

2013

„Dark Room" Arbenz Zürich, (Solo)

„Reference Objects" M-35 Luzern, (Solo)

2 | 2

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