**If Not Now**
The graduation exhibition of the 2018−2020 MA Fine Art class at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht at BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht

**PERFORMANCES**
**30 September—11 October 2020**

**CANCELLED - Isshaq Al-Barbary, *(consenting to remain onbekend)*, 2020, 25 min**
On September 6, 2018, the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) changed the birthplace and nationality of Isshaq Al-Barbary to 'Unknown'. In this performance-lecture, Al-Barbary will dive into this event in an attempt to articulate exchanges between the operation of language and the places in which its meanings are defined. Through storytelling, mapping, the presentation of personal objects and movements, Al-Barbary explores an initial model for the performance of place of birth.   Due to Covid-19, this performance is unfortunately cancelled.

**Charli Herrington, *conditions of togetherness (our work on care)*, 2020, online event, approx. 60'.**
This online event hosted by Charli Herrington is the culmination of a collaborative project between Herrington, experimental music ensemble Hache Collective, and artist Tomi Hilsee. The work presented focuses on concepts of care within artistic, collaborative settings, and conveys how the project changed through the COVID-19 pandemic. The event takes the form of a live web stream that includes a screening of a film by Herrington that documents the collaboration process, and a performance by Hache Collective of a piece composed by Hache and Herrington that explores shared labor within collective practice.

**Sinwah Lai, *Things happen in my house*, 2020, performance, approx. 20'.**
The work *Things happen in my house* is a collection of performances, images and texts that aims to retrace the minute moments and events that are happening all around us, and through which subtle, tiny bridges are built, creating connections between the natural environment, human beings and the community. While people are advised to stay home during the coronavirus pandemic, our world has suddenly shrunk to the size of our homes. However, a house can be regarded as a miniature of our entire world, a safe place that protects us from an outbreak and where most of our daily routines take place: eating, reading, showering or sleeping. Aside from these repetitive actions, who or what constitutes the 'otherness', both living and non-living, which we knowingly or unknowingly share our homes with? While gathering materials such as food, organic waste and seeds, the artist gives shape and meaning to events that occur in her home life. The materials themselves are the main protagonists, revealing stories that enable us to catch a glimpse of an intimate world where humans and non-human beings live together.

**Sol Enae Lee, *35*, 2020, series of performances, each performance approx. 20'.**
As part of Sol Enae Lee's work, entitled 35, a series of performances will arbitrarily take place throughout the exhibition. It includes readings, movements, and the handling of objects, with performers using selected scores published in the eponymous booklet. The performances aim to give a body to printed material and explore different forms of interpretation. Visitors may encounter one of the experimental scenes and share the experience together with the artist and the performers.

**CANCELLED - Winston Nanlohy,** *Cloud excursions,* **2020, performance (live streaming to BAK),**
**approx. 30'.**
In contemporary, technologically well-equipped contexts, digital communication platforms are widely used. Online, real-time communication platforms have boomed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the final semester before his graduation, Nanlohy—and many other students with him—has been forced to use a digital platform for his studies. This change has stirred up a curiosity to learn more about digital data storages. Connecting via the Internet from a location outside of the exhibition space, the artist invites the audience to join him on a tour through the vast landscapes of corporate data storage, while attempting to demystify the power structures that underlie our seemingly "neutral" daily online interactions.

**Gerardo Gomez Tonda,** *Origin Stories***, 2020, workshop-performance, approx. 45'.**
Based on his research about displacement and belonging, Gerardo Gomez Tonda tells the interconnected story of a place marked by colonialism, praying, insurrection, electricity and the 'Nemo Effect'. In this lecture-performance, learning to compost together coincides with exercising care for an invasion of fish that seek to belong.

**Sol Enae Lee,** *35***, 2020, series of performances (unannounced), each performance approx. 20'.**
As part of Sol Enae Lee's work, entitled 35, a series of performances will arbitrarily take place throughout the exhibition. It includes readings, movements, and the handling of objects, with performers using selected scores published in the eponymous booklet. The performances aim to give a body to printed material and explore different forms of interpretation. Visitors may encounter one of the experimental scenes and share the experience together with the artist and the performers.

**Gizem Üstüner,** *Dish-Washing***, 2020, performance with audio reading and the re-enactment of volunteer work in a kitchen, 20'.**
The performative work *Dish-Washing* acts out the final part of this constellation. Whereas the first three stories revolve around various exchanges Üstüner experienced in her daily life, this final act sees the artist re-enacting her experience of volunteering in BAK's Basic Activist Kitchen. In that same kitchen, the viewer can follow Üstüner as she washing the dishes, while a pre-recorded audio work shares readings from her diary. Her relation with the practice of washing dishes acts as a turning point in the constellation, offering the artist an escape from the earlier exchanges; a private space to reflect on the meaning, importance and difficulties involved in these social interactions. The practice of washing the dishes is more than a mundane, habitual gesture; for Üstüner, it is a methodology to connect with herself and to re-communicate with other people, emotions, and situations—inviting the audience to witness this process up close.

**M.C. Julie Yu, Travelogues with Prompts, performance, 2020. 50'.**
*Travelogues with Prompts* shares its name between a promptbook, a video, a performance and an installation. Informed by Yu's personal experience as a migrant in the Netherlands, the work revolves around the confusion of finding oneself constantly moving between two very different but equally precarious situations—being othered by the dominant values of the host country, whilst feeling estranged from one's hometown as a returnee. Taking the

position of a tourist, Yu relates her personal reflections to the global trend of travel and migration. Her performance centers on four narratives, or "scenes", including a fictional story, a real-life incident, a set of looping conversations and a karaoke party. The scenes were collected at different moments during M.C. Julie Yu's stay in Europe and have been transformed into a variety of formats along the way. Taking place around a tourist tent, Yu engages the audience with the question: while constantly moving in-between worlds, how do we position ourselves in terms of belonging?

**Zhou Jinxiao, *The Art of Loving Our selves*, 2020, performance on site and online, 25' (Q&A 30').**
*The artist kindly asks those who attend the performance for a voluntary donation of 5 euros in support of Cocktail, a buddy project by COC Midden-Nederland for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) asylum seekers and refugees. More information on the Instagram account @theartoflovingourselves.*
How do conditions such as history, coloniality, capitalism, politics and religion shape our identity and sexuality? Can sexuality become a prism for understanding ourselves better？Is there only one true self？Or do we actually consist of multiple selves？Through performance, Zhou Jinxiao aims to create a safe space to practice embodied forms of (un)learning and explore self-love—the act of loving one's self. In his performances, Zhou takes an intersectional approach to uncover and understand underlying affections, such as the shame experienced by a non-heterosexual man, his crisis of identity. The artist explores how oppressive power structures rooted in history, coloniality, capitalism and politics, have constructed an emotional framework one is forced to experience while searching for one's sexual self—including a perpetual sense of shame. In the performative work *The Art of Loving Our selves*, Zhou unfolds a multiplicity of selves that allows queer affections to flow, opening up a pathway to communicate with our/selves and gain a deeper understanding of who we are. At the same time, the practice of self-love uncovers and challenges the visible and invisible suppressions non-heterosexual men experience on a daily basis.

***Mutual Support Platform: Experiences, challenges and future plans*. Discussion revolving around academic restraints, support and peer exchange.**
**Participants: initiators, (future) participants and invited guests.**
The Mutual Support Platform (MSP) is a space for conversations and actions by/between/for students, alumni and teachers of the MAFA HKU. It emerged as a collective effort in response to the COVID-19 crisis that we—some more, and others less privileged people—experienced. The platform will continue to exist as an internal (and at times external) online resource, as an expanded network, and hub for initiating conversations. Instead of surrendering to the systemic attempts of the academy to discipline, MSP attempts to challenge the so-called neutrality of prevalent discourses in (art) education, and addresses the lack of support from the art institution on different levels. MSP is dedicated to interrogate how we can deal with our conditions collectively, how to intervene and to document these processes and trajectories, to imagine and act, to unlearn and support one another.

**Radio program: If Not Now, Stranded FM, Utrecht & beyond**
As part of *If Not Now*, students and graduates of the HKU MA Fine Art, will organize a live radio program, hosted by Stranded FM, that includes audio tours of the exhibition, as well as conversations with, and contributions by the artists and special guests. Tune in and listen to

personal stories and experiences of cultural struggle, artistic production processes, dreams and nightmares, and to catch a glimpse of experiences and sound bites from the semester-long program *Sonic Archival Practices* (part of HKU MA Fine Art, year 1).

**PROGRAMME**

**Wed, 30 September 2020**

13.00–14.45   Exhibition preview, with word of welcome by Maria Hlavajova and introduction by Annette Krauss and Katia Krupennikova (doors open 12.45 hrs)

15.15–17.00   Exhibition preview, with word of welcome by Maria Hlavajova and introduction by Annette Krauss and Falke Pisano

**Thu, 1 October 2020**

CANCELLED - ~~15.00  Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

16.00   Sinwah Lai, Things happen in my house, performance, 20'.

**Fri, 2 October 2020**

14:00   Sol Enae Lee, *35*, 2020, performance, 20'.

CANCELLED - ~~15.00  Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

16.00   Gerardo Gomez Tonda, *Origin Stories*, 2020, workshop-performance 45'.

**Sat, 3 October 2020**

14.00   Gizem Üstüner, *Dish-Washing, 2020*, performance, 15'.

15.00   M.C. Julie Yu, *Travelogues with Prompts*, 2020, performance, 50'.

16.00   Sinwah Lai, *Things happen in my house*, performance, 20'.

CANCELLED - ~~17.00  Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

**Sun, 4 October 2020**

14.00   Gizem Üstüner, *Dish-Washing*, 2020, performance, 15'.

16.00   Gerardo Gomez Tonda, *Origin Stories*, 2020, workshop-performance, 45'.

CANCELLED - ~~18.00  Isshaq Al-Barbary, *(consenting to remain onbekend)*, 2020, performance, 25'.~~

**Tue, 6 October 2020 (online)**

19.00   Charli Herrington, *conditions of togetherness (our work on care)*, 2020, online event, approx. 60'. Video documentation of the live stream will be available till 13 October 2020 at https://www.twitch.tv/charliherr/videos. Please make a reservation: charli.herrington@gmail.com

**Wed, 7 October 2020**

16.00   Sinwah Lai, *Things happen in my house*, performance, 20'.

17.00   Gerardo Gomez Tonda, Origin Stories, 2020, workshop-performance, 45'.

**Thu, 8 October 2020**

CANCELLED - ~~15.00   Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

16.30   *Mutual Support Platform: Experiences, challenges and future plans.* Discussion revolving around academic restraints, support and peer exchange. Participants: initiators, (future) participants and invited guests, 2hrs.

**Fri, 9 October 2020**

14.00   Gizem Üstüner, Dish-Washing, 2020, performance, 15'. (note: newly added 18/9)

14.30   Sol Enae Lee, *35,* 2020, performance, 20'.

CANCELLED - ~~15.00   Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

16.00   M.C. Julie Yu, *Travelogues with Prompts*, 2020, performance, 50'.

**Sat, 10 October 2020**

14.00   Gizem Üstüner, *Dish-Washing*, 2020, performance, 15'.

CANCELLED - ~~15.00   Winston Nanlohy, *Cloud Excursions, 2020*, performative presentation, 25'.~~

16.00   Gerardo Gomez Tonda, *Origin Stories*, 2020, workshop-performance 45'.

17.00   Zhou Jinxiao, *The Art of Loving Our selves*, 2020, performance on-site and online, 25'.

18.00   Zhou Jinxiao, *The Art of Loving Our selves*, 2020, performance and Q&A on site and online, 50'.

**Sun, 11 October 2020**

11.00   *If Not Now*, radio program hosted by Stranded FM (ongoing till 17.00 hrs).

17.30  Zhou Jinxiao, *The Art of Loving Our selves*, 2020, performance and discussion on-site and online, 90'.