



Experiment in Time, 1972, acrylic on canvas, 86.4 x 106.7 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Greenspon, New York

Gene Beery - Retrospective p.2

Grégory Sugnaux - *Définitif, donc provisoire* p.8

Vanessa Safavi - *Velvet* p.10

4 May - 30 June 2019

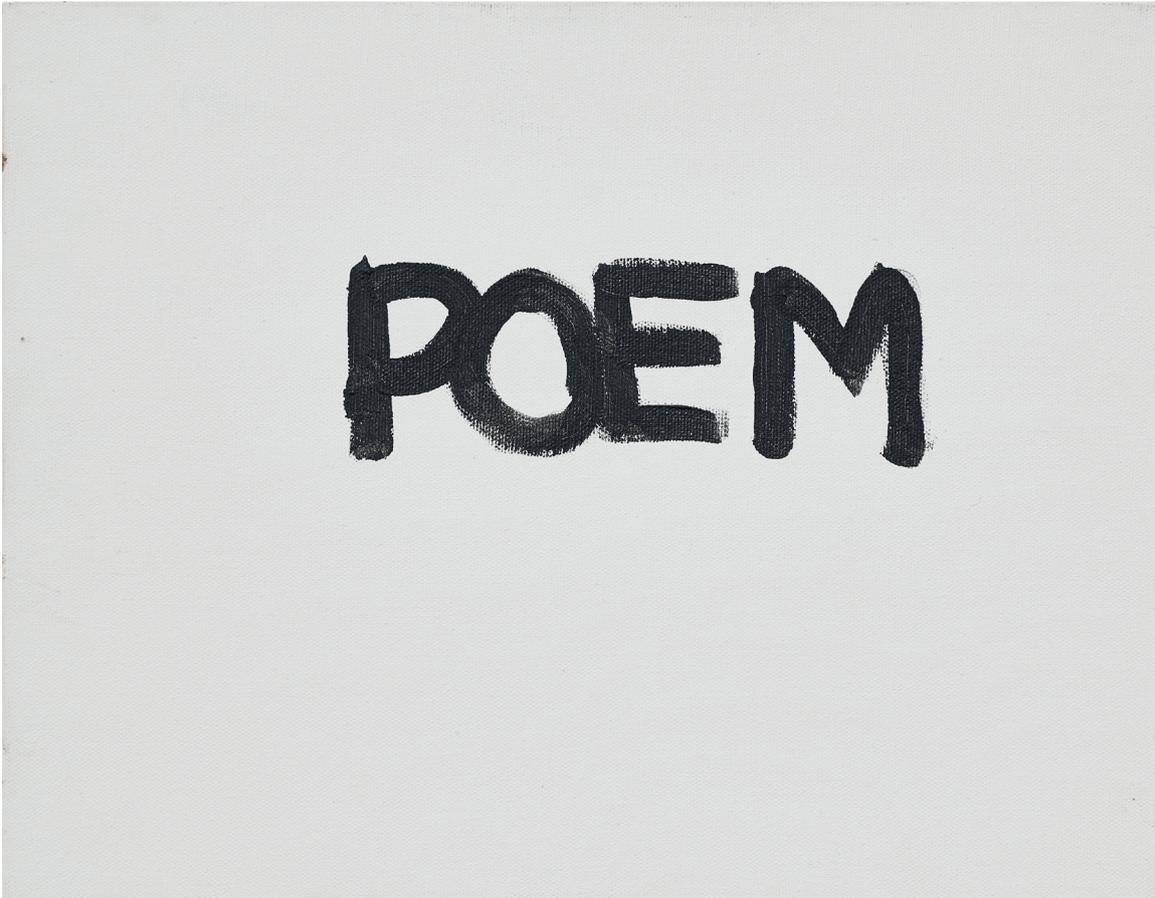
[Link to exhibition views and press release](#)

Gene Beery – Retrospective

Fri Art Kunsthalle presents the First-Ever retrospective of the rediscovered American artist Gene Beery (*1937) with more than 40 works from 1960 to 2016.

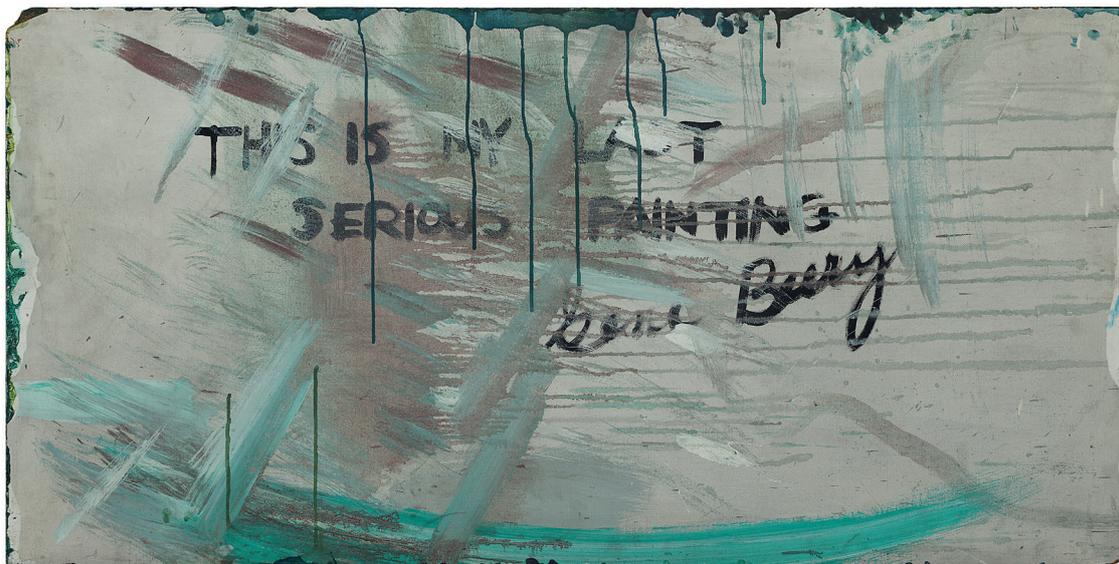
Gene Beery is one of the first visual artists to use words and texts as the main content of his artworks as well as the inventor of the “Paintogram”, the term he coined to define his painted texts works.

This first institutional survey on the artist Gene Beery is accompanied by a monographic publication. It brings together more than 60 color images and exclusive essays by Kenneth Goldsmith and Jo Melvin.

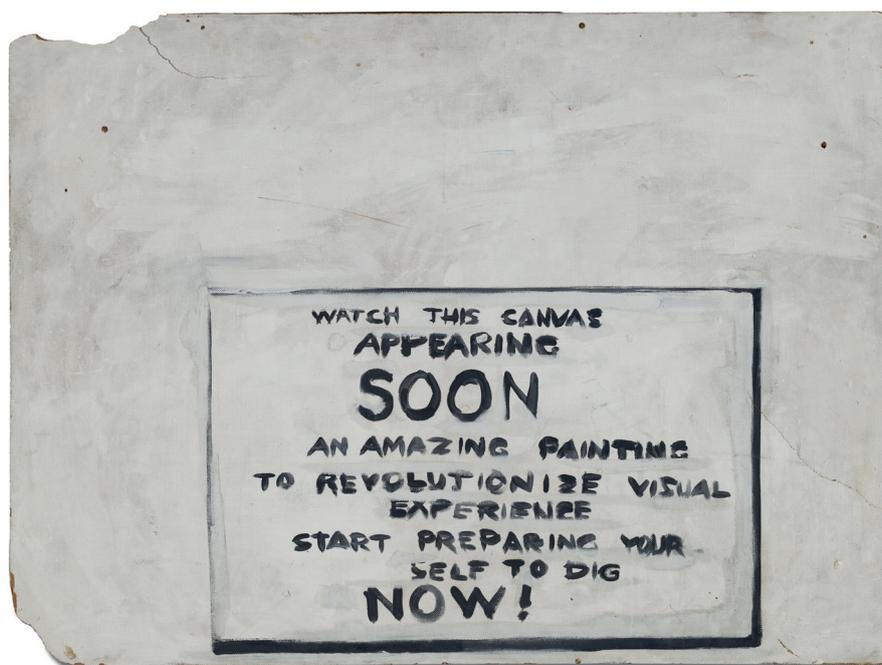


Poem, 2009, 25.5 x 35.5 cm, Acrylic on canvas, Private Collection L.A.

For more than 60 years, Gene Beery (b. 1937) has interrogated, with humor and irony, the moment of aesthetic experience. What are the stakes of an encounter between a viewer and an artwork? What does the surface of the canvas promise to whoever looks at it? Beery positions himself with pictures to be read, whose phrases announce the arrival, the impossibility or the absurdity of such an experience. Behind the apparent nonchalance and sarcastic distance of his practice emerges a profound reflection on the existence of art and the role of the artist.



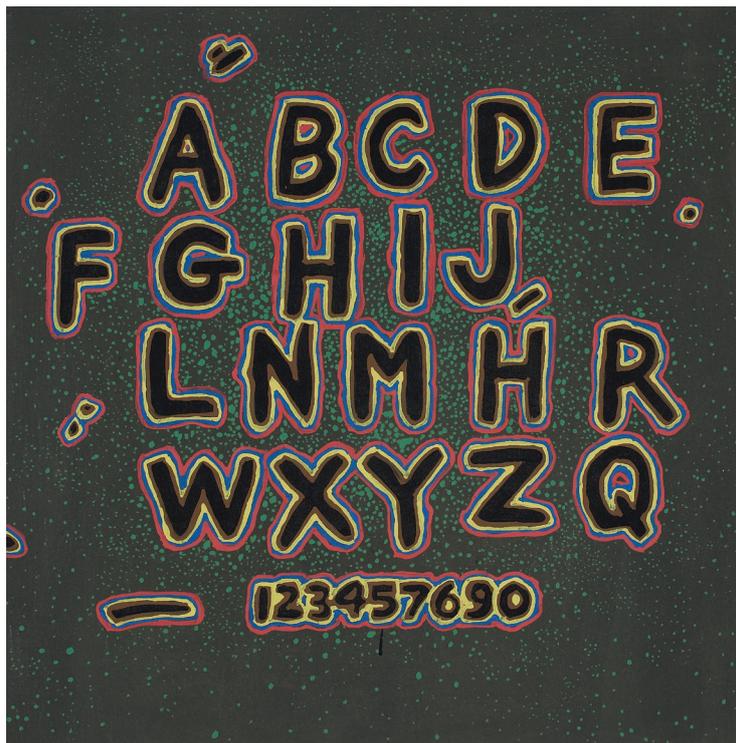
This Is my Last Serious Painting, 1960, 61 x 122 cm, Oil on masonite, LeWitt Collection, Chester, Connecticut, USA



Watch this Canvas, 1960-61, 91.4 x 122 cm, Oil on masonite, LeWitt Collection, Chester, Connecticut, USA

In 1960 the artist made his first text paintings, unclassifiable works at the intersection of Fluxus, Minimalism, neo-Dada and assemblage. Beery's paintings are a blend of deadpan humour, anti-esthetism and attempts to reduce the art form to a written idea.

Three years later he left New York, going into exile in the California mountains, where he has worked ever since, on the margins of the art world. There he makes an important shift towards idiosyncratic colorful pop paintings mixing both texts and images. If his first New York paintings took a true anti-painting stance, the artist extended the field of his practice, beginning in 1965, to a new kind of figuration inspired by vernacular esthetic. He thus anticipated painting's many revivals in the decades that followed.



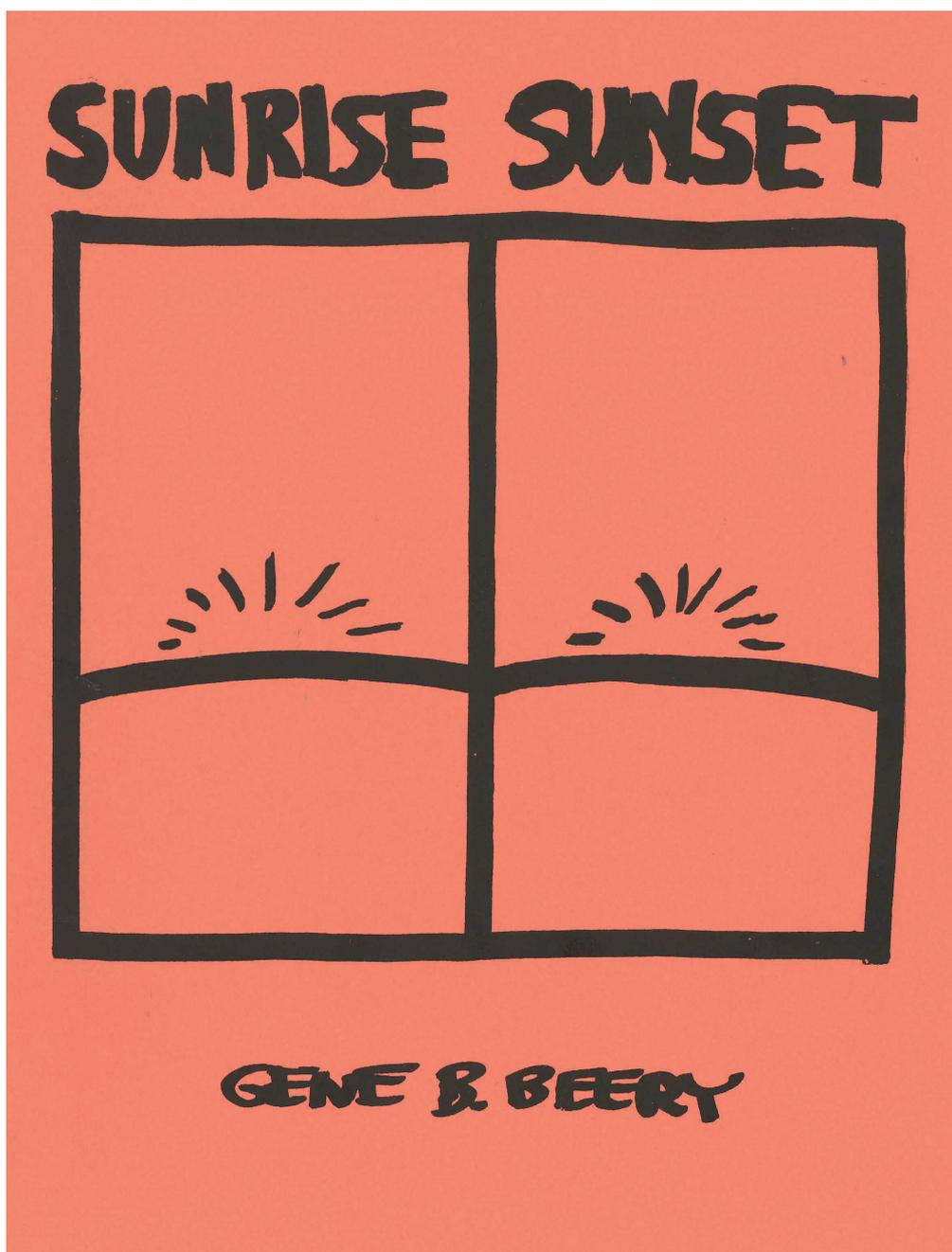
ABCDEFGHIJLNMHRWXYZQ, c. 1970, 61 x 61 cm, Acrylic on canvas, Private Collection, New York



The Power Lines, 1966, 75.5 x 91.44 cm, Acrylic on canvas, Courtesy of the artist and Greenspon, New York

Artist Books

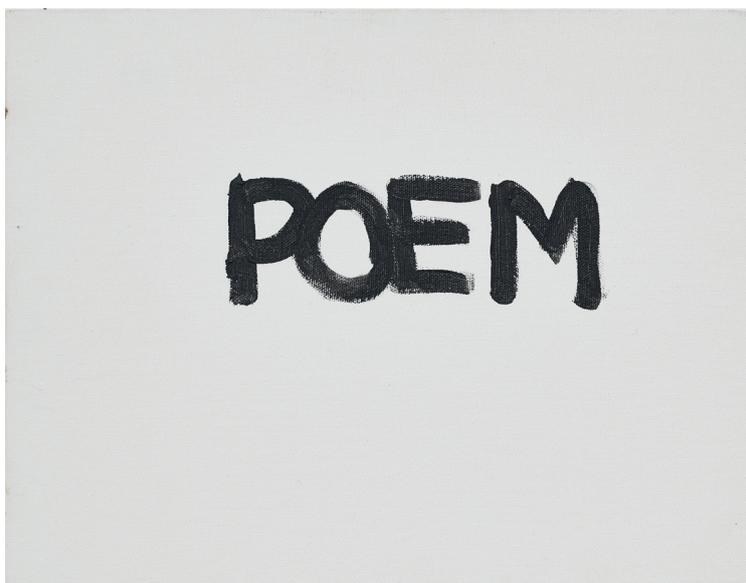
Oscillating between figurative phases, the production of artist's books and manifest paintings and the invention of glossolalias and neologisms, he undertakes a tongue-in-cheek job and makes puns that mock artistic genius and high art. His unique approach resonates with the avant-garde movements—poetic and artistic—of the 1950s-1960s, and with the most current artistic practices.



Sunrise Sunset, For the Distinguished Limner, 1980, Offset-printed, 1 color, stapled, 21.4 x 27.3 cm, 20 pages (n.p.)



We Still Have Wild Birds Here, c. 1990, 45.7 x 35.6 cm, Acrylic on canvas, Collection of Wayne Gonzales, New York



Poem, 2009, 25.5 x 35.5 cm, Acrylic on canvas, Private Collection L.A.

Gene Beery is the first monograph dedicated to this American artist and offers an indepth investigation of his work. It assembles more than 130 artworks and three essays, by the poet and cultural activist Kenneth Goldsmith, the critic Jo Melvin and Balthazar Lovay, as well as an interview with Gene Beery by Gregor Quack.

Gene Beery

Balthazar Lovay (Ed.)

Authors: Kenneth Goldsmith, Jo Melvin, Balthazar Lovay

English

178 pages

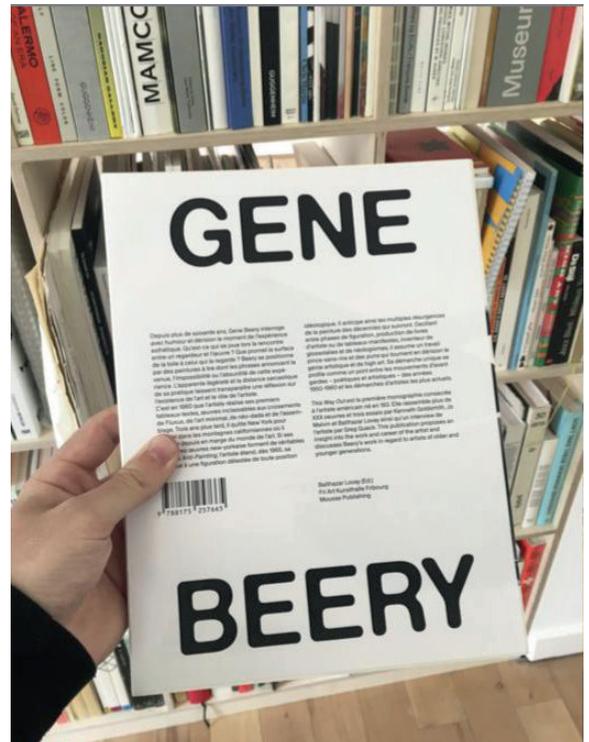
120 color images; 12 b/w

20,5x27,5 cm

ISBN: 978-88-6749-374-6

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2019



Grégory Sugnaux - *Définitif, donc provisoire*



Jiggly Wiggly, 2018, mixed technique on canvas, 160 x 120 cm. Photo : Julien Chavallaz

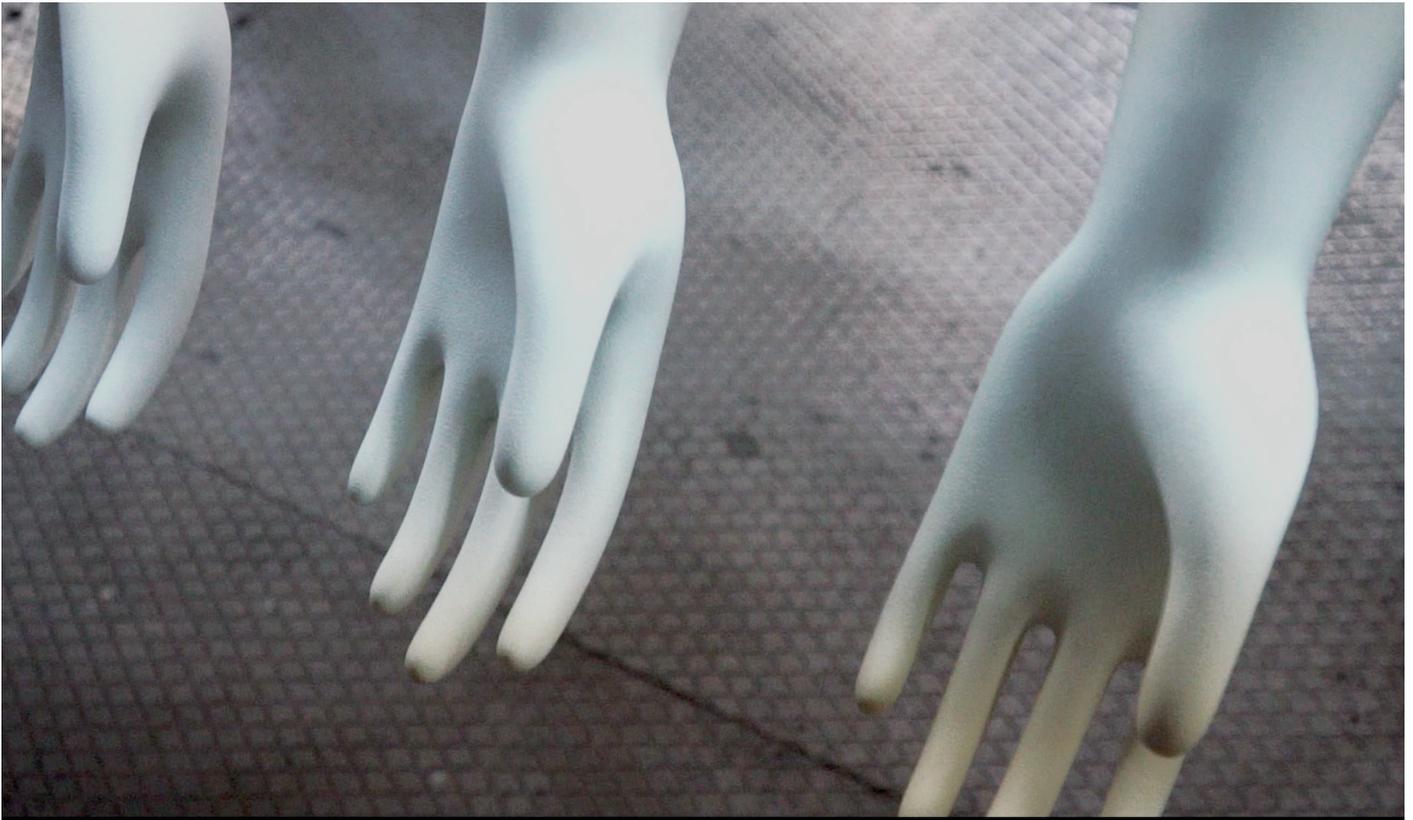
Grégory Sugnaux's (*1989) *Définitif, donc provisoire* is a series of in-site interventions and paintings produced between 2018 and 2019. The pictorial work is based on an improvised archive of chalk drawings made on the ground by children, spotted out and photographed by the artist as he goes out in the city. This exhibition is his first solo show in an institution.

Gregory Sugnaux lives and works in Fribourg. After a residency at the art school la Cambre in Brussels, he obtained a Bachelor's degree from the art school in Valais (ECAV) in 2013 and a Master's degree in Bern (HKB) in 2017. In 2015, he received the Kiefer Hablitzel prize and won an artistic residency the following year in Berlin. The City of Fribourg granted him a residency at the Jean Tinguely Atelier of the Cité internationale des arts in Paris, from September 2019. Grégory Sugnaux has exhibited in many independent art spaces, notably in Lokal-int, Bienne (2019), in Kunsthalle Marcel Duchamp, Cully (2018), and in the group exhibitions *Fribi White Card*, *Fri Art*, Fribourg, and *Jeunes Pousses*, Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Yverdon-les-bains in 2017. Since 2016, he has been co-curator of the artspace WallRiss in Fribourg.



Things that Happen Downstairs, 2018, mixed technique on canvas, 140 x 100 cm.
Photo : Julien Chavaillaz

Vanessa Safavi - *Velvet*



Velvet, 2019, HD video, 12 min, still

Vanessa Safavi (*1980) lives and works between Berlin and Fribourg. The film *Velvet* produced in 2018-19 with a soundtrack by Ariel Garcia is presented for the first time to the public. *Velvet* offers an immersion in a small Indian company specialized in the manufacture of latex gloves. Physical and symbolic bodies meet in the industry space, questioning with poetry the identity of the contemporary body and its allegiance to technological optimization.

Vanessa Safavi exhibited at Fri Art in 2007, in the exhibition *Anathema* with Fabian Marti and Lauris Paulus. She recently showed her work in the solo exhibitions *The Approach*, London (CONDO with *The Breeder*) in 2019, *Turns and Returned*, *The Breeder*, Athens (2018), *The Cook and the Smoke Detector*, Chert-Lüdde, Berlin (2017), *Medulla Plaza*, Kunstverein Graftschaft, Bentheim (2016) or *Cloud Metal Cities*, Kunsthalle Sao Paulo (2014). She was invited in group exhibitions such as *Objects Like Us*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (2018), *And as things fall apart, nobody paid much attention*, MONITOR, Lisbon (2018), *Macaroni*, WallRiss, Fribourg (2016), *A Month of Sundays*, Taylor Macklin, Zürich (2016).

Velvet is co-produced by Fri Art Kunsthalle and Etat de Fribourg.

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