

SECOND

03.04.–16.05.21

An exhibition by Gianmaria Andreetta
with Huw Lemmey, Luzie Meyer, Becket MWN, Angharad Williams, Bruno Zhu



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SECOND

The exhibition **SECOND** highlights the writing and compositional strategies of a group of artists assembled by the editor and curator Gianmaria Andreetta. For the exhibition, newly commissioned works address the critical relationship between the artists' literary projects and the making of a public, pointing to what was once materially inaccessible or unavailable, and what has been flattened or obscured by the bigger picture. Revisiting previous works and investigating previously overlooked objects, **SECOND** uses practice-based explorations to reconnect key concepts of collaboration, ephemerality and fiction. This mode of commissioning demonstrates and realizes recent developments in the ways artists use writing to generate art, develop editorial relationships and initiate meaningful exchanges on the value of words.

Through different registers such as memoir, fiction, poetry, songwriting, playwright and screenplay, artists and writers Huw Lemmey, Luzie Meyer, Becket MWN, Angharad Williams and Bruno Zhu play with and navigate through their own predictions (real, imaginary and deceptive) whilst candidly looking at the past.

The exhibition is organized in partnership with the Swiss Art Awards.



Angharad Williams, *From Flowers to Felons*, 2021, *SECOND*, Fri Art, 2021. Photo Guillaume Python. Courtesy of Fri Art Kunsthalle

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The exhibition **SECOND** is best understood through the lens of collaboration and collaborative writing. Bringing together a group of artists all knowing one another, or having already participated in each other's work, curator and editor **Gianmaria Andretta** proposed artists and writers **Huw Lemmey**, **Luzie Meyer**, **Becket MWN**, **Angharad Williams** and **Bruno Zhu** to produce work collectively.

The works in the exhibition are therefore intertwined by a common form of address, personal and direct, yet attentive to insights and contributions from the group:

The artist **Bruno Zhu** formed the band **The Unplugged** to plunge, together with **Gianmaria Andretta**, into a dialogue of complex feelings and a yearning for extreme release.

Luzie Meyer and **Becket MWN** star in Meyer's film as both puppets and puppeteers, forming a dialogic adaptation of a *Ghost Trio*, one of the very few plays Samuel Beckett wrote for television. **Beckett MWN's** own work is multi-vocal and spreads across the space in three eerie sound embodiments.

Angharad Williams' sculpture came about through conversation about ill-fated works and a text that Williams performed but never published, and to which Williams and Andretta kept returning.

Writer **Huw Lemmey** reveals in painting areas of contact and a map to his literary project.

The exhibition overall demonstrates how writing is a privileged site for collaborative work, creating a space for meaningful conversation on the value of the spoken and written word.



Luzie Meyer, *Tryst, Again*, 2021, SECOND, Fri Art, 2021. Photo Guillaume Python. Courtesy of Fri Art Kunsthalle

[Watch Luzie Meyer, Tryst, Again](#)

The artists

Angharad Williams is an artist and writer who lives in Wales and Berlin. Recent solo projects, performances, and group exhibitions have taken place at Schiefe Zähne, Berlin; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Stadtgalerie Bern, Bern; Kunstverein Munich, Munich (all 2020); Haus zur Liebe, Schaffhausen; ICA, London; Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin; No Bounds Festival, Sheffield; Peak, London (all 2019); Radiophrenia, Glasgow; and Liszt, Berlin (all 2018). Forthcoming exhibitions will take place at Kevin Space, Vienna and G39, Cardiff. Since 2016 Williams has been working collaboratively with Swiss artist Mathis Gasser on *Hergest*; the latest installment of which is currently on display at the Swiss Institute, NYC.

Bruno Zhu (*1991) lives and works in Amsterdam. Recent projects include presentations at UKS in Oslo, Fragile in Berlin, Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, EXILE in Vienna, Antenna Space in Shanghai and Kunsthalle Lissabon in Lisbon. Zhu is a member of A Maior, a curatorial program set in a home furnishings and clothing store in Viseu, Portugal.

Luzie Meyer (*1990) is an artist, poet, musician, and translator based in Berlin. She graduated from Städelschule in Frankfurt in 2016. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions, amongst others at Efremidis, Berlin (2020), Bel Ami, Los Angeles (2019), Sweetwater, Berlin (2019); Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg (2019); Kunstverein Braunschweig (2018); Kölnischer Kunstverein (2018); Tramway, Glasgow (2018); Le Bourgeois, London (2017); CACBM, Paris (2018) Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2017); Portikus, Frankfurt (2017).



The Unplugged, *Live from Fribourg*, 2021, SECOND, Fri Art, 2021. Photo Guillaume Python. Courtesy of Fri Art Kunsthalle

Listen to The Unplugged

Becket MWN (*1985) is an Amsterdam-based writer and artist, whose recent projects have focused on the relation between language, speaking, and the production of the self to question current forms of political subjectivity. He received his MFA from the University of Southern California in 2014, and was a resident artist at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam from 2015 to 2017. He has recently exhibited at SculptureCenter (New York), TG Gallery (Nottingham), Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen (Haarlem), Root Canal (Amsterdam), and Vleeshal (Middelburg). His recent performances include Saliva (Barcelona) and HTSU Cooperative (Amsterdam).

Huw Lemmey is a novelist, artist and critic living in Barcelona. He is the author of three novels: *Unknown Language* (Ignota Books 2020), *Red Tory: My Corbyn Chemsex Hell* (Montez Press, 2019), and *Chubz: The Demonization of my Working Arse* (Montez Press, 2016). He writes on culture, sexuality and cities for the Guardian, Frieze, Flash Art, Tribune, TANK, The Architectural Review, Art Monthly, New Humanist, Rhizome, The White Review, and L'Uomo Vogue, amongst others. He writes the weekly essay series utopian drivel and is the co-host of Bad Gays.



Beck MWN, *Things you need before leaving the house (on the gradual construction of thought in text)*, 2021, SECOND, Fri Art, 2021.
 Photo Guillaume Python. Courtesy of Fri Art Kunsthalle



Huw Lemmey, *Biblioteca*, 2021 SECOND, Fri Art, 2021. Photo Guillaume Python. Courtesy of Fri Art Kunsthalle

Listen to Becket MWN, *Thing you need before leaving the house (on gradual construction of thought in text)*

The curator

Gianmaria Andreetta is a curator and writer born in Lugano, Switzerland and living and working in Berlin. He is the co-founder of the artists cooperative HTSU, and a fellow of the RPDPA, Research Platform and Doctoral Practice in Arts. Andreetta is the 2019 recipient of the Swiss Art Award in the category of Critique, Publishing, Exhibition.

Recent commissions explore the nature of cooperatives through relationships with a public and public ownership (Ghislaine Leung, premiering Spring 2021), have developed the concept of "Sitcom Architecture" as a built-environment for broadcast and familial relations (Becket MWN) and have supported ongoing artistic research on prophecy and breath pointing to corresponding physical and spiritual worship within Pentecostal traditions (Ima-Abasi Okon).

Coming shows include: Tunnel Tunnel, Lausanne with Noémi Michel; DREI at Mönchengladbach with Angharad Williams; Stadtgalerie, Bern with Richard John Jones and Luca Beeler.



Gianmaria Andreetta dans l'exposition, 08.04.2021. Photo: Charly Rappo

Thanks

Thank you HTSU cooperative, Catherine Queloz, Sophia Dinkel, Annie Goodner, Noémi Michel, Léa Fluck, Richard John Jones and the Swiss Art Awards.

Exhibitions until May 16th 2021

Groundfloor: *The films of Guillaume Dustan*

1st Floor: *SECOND*, curated by Gianmaria Andreetta
With Huw Lemmey, Luzie Meyer, Becket MWN,
Angharad Williams, Bruno Zhu

Opening hours

Wednesday to Friday: 12am - 18pm

Saturday and Sunday: 1pm - 6pm

Monday and Tuesday: by appointment (info@fri-art.ch)

Dates of the exhibitions and complete program : fri-art.ch
Art mediation and school visits : info@fri-art.ch

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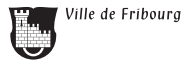
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