



On
Arte

Spazio per l'arte
contemporanea
con videolounge

Martedì — Sabato
14.00 — 18.00
Lunedì e festivi
chiuso

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● That Fabric Between Us – Introduction

Dear visitor(s),

Welcome to the project space OnArte. We are glad you made it here and celebrate with us tonight the opening of the exhibition *"That Fabric Between Us"*.

With fond memories of the show *"Lungs of Sugar"* that I compiled for OnArte last summer, I am proud to present you the second exhibition that I curated for this project space, *"That Fabric Between Us"*, with works by 8 artists of whom 7 are here tonight: Andréa Julikà Tavares, Eric Philippoz, Esmé Valk, Gerwin Luijendijk, Laura De Bernardi, Myriam Van Imschoot, Patrícia Pinheiro de Sousa, and myself.

Society has produced many concepts of and believes in individualism and the belief in independence, the wish for solitude and the claim for time outs. In an era where communities seek to split from existing states, form militant groups to undertaking rigorous actions, we can notice or ignore lacks of understanding or disagreement with established forms and systems. We might think how different they are – or maybe we are different from them, and that poses a bunch of questions about relativity and relations – our relations to others and the world around us.

Let us zoom in from issues and dilemmas of countries or states to more personal relations. Let us think about our neighbors, friends, family members and ourselves.

An individual is a "collective" of various components, Isabel Llorey states, and as a subjective phenomenon it relates not only to personal territories like the body, or the self, but also to collective territories; the family, a community, an ethnical group.

According to Llorey, the self of an individual is never a closed system because it is informed by experiences from its own history. It is in continuous attempt to understand, review and place these entanglements with its surroundings. The self is therefore constantly in conflict with processes and events that surround it, means the Self is always in self-relation - not with just one, but with many, at any moment. Think of an office worker who has to finish a report, but as a parent wants to be with her sick child – at least two self-relations in one moment or a day or even longer; the responsible employee and the caring mother, which are not always easy to combine with each other.

Self-relations are linguistic and non-linguistic practices. And as the word practice implies, they are made anew and again. In these repetitions a self is formed, but not a self of substance, but of changeability. This is an interesting thought in regards to our understanding of identity.

When we are able to depart from fixed identities, which means identities that include, incorporate and embody contradictions and heterogeneity, dynamic structures can arise. We might be able to plug into or entangle with different discourses. We could be bodies that Llorey calls "dynamic bodies", bodies through which things pass. Because such bodies are flexible, they can not only change themselves but also affect, influence or alter structures that surround and shape them.

I would like to invite you to step into a parallel program field that relates in many things to the film festival Locarno, of where the video-, photographic- and installative works of different artists reflect upon relational presence and

memory, including relationships towards one self, towards the other beings, with organisms and ideas, gender concepts and fictions, etcetera. For those of you who would like to delve into the contexts of the single works, you will find interesting links in our exhibition guide.

And maybe after strolling around, you want to share your observations or questions with us later. The sheer fact that you came to visit us I would like to read as an act of care. Thank you for this, your presence, I am very happy about it.

Locarno 28th July 2018
Kathrin Wolkowicz