

# TENANTS

(Margarita Maximova, Rachel Monosov, Jura Shust) with Augustus Ruth

09.03.2019 – 05.04.2019

Opening: Saturday 9 March at 6.30pm

Giorgio Galotti

Via Beinasco 16, Torino

On the occasion of the exhibition at Giorgio Galotti gallery, Tenants, a brand-new independent collective based in Berlin, at its first public appearance presents three video works. Each one is set in a location connected to seemingly inevitable individual and public memories: a cultural phenomenon, an emotional embodiment and a simulation of an elusive paradise.

Each works reveals something about the resilience of earthly materials and their polyvalent symbolic qualities.

The architectural environments portrayed, such as the once prosperous mall in Brussels and the botanical garden in Jerusalem, represent the artists' explorations of personal identity, through registration and performance.

Tenants, dedicated to self-identification, merging and dissolving aspects of physical and mental space, works as an open source platform that welcomes each participants' contribution.

On this occasion the collective is sharing the project with the unreal 'figure' of Augustus Ruth to complete the intervention in the physical space.

Augustus Ruth is the avatar of an artist existing only to be worn by others. For this reason "he" often appears to the public through a bathrobe filled of human belongings representing the person dressing his identity. Into this project Augustus Ruth will be Margarita Maximova, Rachel Monosov and Jura Shust.

## Collective's biography

Tenants is a Berlin-based collective established in 2019 by artists Margarita Maximova, Rachel Monosov and Jura Shust. There are no set rules or limitations imposed on its activities in the physical, metaphysical or digital realms. Tenants is actively focused on collaboration with other initiatives with aligned cultural approaches. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, Tenants researches future-oriented aspects of culture, encompassing everything from myths to mass entertainment, iconography to technology, architecture to the unconscious.

Tenants believes in transnational integration through inclusiveness.

Performing the past in the present moment opens up a space for imagining and re-imagining visions of the future. This politics of possibility allows us to imagine and form alternate realities.

## List of Works

'Freedom in the clouds'  
Rachel Monosov  
2015  
HDV, 10:19 min.

We live in a time and place where even microscopic examination will not reveal the difference between a real seed and its imitation. This video opens in the Tropical Islands holiday resort, which replicates a natural Thai island, confined within the giant dome of the former Brand-Briesen airfield in Krausnick, Germany. The second filming location is an anonymous botanical garden in Jerusalem, Israel.

Performing the imagined actions of the daily routines of a cleaning lady and a botanist, Monosov theatrically depicts their environment and action, both of which alternate between the real and surreal. These artificial universes epitomize the powerlessness of a nature controlled and exploited by humans. In the abstract sense of some pastoral place, the two women appear to be enacting a mysterious score, governed by an unknown logic.

'The vast, the land, the liquid'  
Margarita Maximova  
2014  
4:32 min

"The Vast, The Land, The Liquid is a silent video with landscape images that the narrator wants to reconsider, as indicated by the subtitles: the sky, the mountains, a wavy sea. However, because the computer literally couldn't handle this footage, subtitles like "the waves seemed to get stuck" get much more ambiguous: they stand for the faltering pixel formations in the image, but also the inability to show the landscape accurately, and even more, boredom is found in the fixed gaze of the narrator herself when viewing these phenomenons. The inability to find a flight or escape in the magnetizing images. The image, the remaining image comes to stand literally in front of the landscape: as a frustrating obstruction. As a result, the pixels themselves become sad waves, a disturbing and even an unsustainable abstraction remains."

Text: Tom Van Imschoot.

'Noosphere'  
Jura Shust  
2016–2017  
Ultra HD, 7:17 min. (loop)

This video is a documentation of a performance: the artist drinking water from a fountain in a fading shopping mall. The underground mall, located in central Brussels, was opened at the beginning of the last century. Prestigious and popular in the past, today it is a relic of a last unclaimed past, some kind of temple to a cult of consumerism. Many of its shops have been closed due to non-profitability, and only the mirrors lining its walls and vaults retain the memory of the pilgrimages of consumers past.

## Artists' biographies

Margarita Maximova

Born 1990, Moscow, RU

Lives and works in Berlin.

Maximova earned her Master cum Laude in Fine Arts at Sint-Lucas, (Ghent, BE) in 2013. Maximova has had several museum exhibitions and gallery exhibitions. She was laureate of Coming People, 2014, S.M.A.K and had her most recent solo show in Beursschouwburg (Brussels, BE). In 2018 she had her first international appearance at the off-site video Program of Paris Internationale and will take part at Art Brussels, 2019. Since 2014 she has exhibited at S.M.A.K. (Ghent, BE), Super Dakota, (Brussels, BE), Bâtard Festival (Brussels, BE), Dr.Guislainmuseum (Ghent, BE), 019 (Ghent, BE) and many others galleries.

Rachel Monosov

Born 1987, St. Petersburg, RU

Lives and works in Berlin.

Monosov holds two MFAs in Filmmaking and Fine Art from The Royal Academy of Fine Arts KASK (Ghent, BE), and her BA from Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem, Israel. She has recently exhibited at the Zimbabwe Pavilion of the 57th Venice Biennale in collaboration with artist Admire Kamudzengerere, at the 11th Bamako Biennial, the Dakar Biennial, and in museum exhibitions at BOZAR (Brussels, BE), Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens (Latem, BE), and the National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Harare, ZW). Her work has been acquired by many private and public collections internationally.

Jura Shust

Born 1983, Minsk, BY

Lives and works in Berlin.

Shust holds MA in Fine Arts at KASK (Ghent, BE), BA in Media Communication at EHU (Vilnius, LT) and the diploma of Higher Institute for Fine Arts, HISK (Ghent, BE). Since 2012 he was exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art GFZK (Leipzig, DE), Contemporary Art Museum S.M.A.K. (Ghent, BE), Museum de Domijnen (Sittard, NL), Calvert 22 Foundation (London, UK), Blaffer Art Museum (Houston, Texas, US) and many others galleries. In 2016 he took part in the 5th Biennale for Young Art in Moscow. Today Shust's works are held in private and public collections, including the collection of S.M.A.K. museum in Ghent.