

NICODIM

TITANIA SEIDL: eyes never quite catching

Nicodim Upstairs Los Angeles

February 12 – March 19, 2022



Titania Seidl

The three looking glasses or The three magnifying glasses or The hour glass, 2021

I study your face on my screen. Not that I can actually see much. There's a window behind you, and you look more like a paper silhouette than a three dimensional person. As you shift your head, the light flickers, sometimes, and I can make out more - the pixelated bridge of your nose, your lips moving, I think I can even make out your teeth. Your eyes are cast in darkness, but their shade of deep brown, I don't need to see it to remember.

You ask me how I am and as I answer fine, you know I mean exhausted.

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As you tell me about your last months, my eyes trail to your virtual surroundings - behind your video image, I can see the edge of a painting from a medieval manuscript, ornamental tendrils growing several types of flowers and fruit at once. I can also see, on your right, a blown up image of a hand held mirror, its handle lining up with the edge of the table in your frame, a strange coincidence.

There's a pause in the conversation and I feel the urge to fill the gap with words before it grows too large. I've developed close relationships to the objects populating my living room, I throw in. Can you imagine, the cactus is growing a paw. The vase looks out the window with its bird face. The orchid blooms three times a year and when the blossoms wither, I catch the petals with my hands, their skin as dry as mine from all the hand washing. The dark roots of my bleached hair provide me with a calendar to track the passage of time. You laugh, you might try that out, too.

You talk about a book you've read recently, about a nameless female narrator who finds herself completely alone on earth, the last woman standing, the most depressing combination of loneliness and empowerment, I carefully zoom into the image behind you, my fingers touching the trackpad surface as if it was your face I caress. After our conversation, I will remember your voice, deeper than I'd last heard it, linked to slowly enlarging the scanned page of a book about representational sculptures.

The recent past feels more distant than ancient history, you sigh, and I agree. My eyes refocus on your face that has become an abstract pattern in the changing light around you. The small image of myself next to you has also turned a dark shade of purple, and as I watch myself not looking at you I stammer about the column in the city center. I watch my mouth move and I can hear how I fail to make this story interesting, about the monument that has been erected over three hundred years ago, an object that looks like a pile of foam has been dumped down from the skies, until you get close enough to see long arms and legs protruding from the amorphous form.

It's not as soft as foam, of course, or as ephemeral as the clouds it's mimicking, the whole form is carved out of hard, lasting limestone. The permanence of the thing has drawn people back to it in this recent crisis, I tell your face, now flickering in and out of focus. After decades of being a landmark, a sight for tourists, devoid of all meaning, it has been rediscovered as a source of comfort. People laid down flowers at the base of this baroque colossus, lit candles, stuck letters in the netting protecting its surface from vandalism and pigeons.

My sentence ends in nothingness and I'm not sure if I've made my point clear. I try to make out your expression, you remain an unmoving shadow. I open my mouth to say something else, to end my ramblings with a joke, if possible, but instantly your face is covered up by a turning dial and my screen tells me the connection is bad.

My screen turns black abruptly. I finally look myself in the eyes, surrounded by the blurry reflection of a tired face.

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Titania Seidl

° Born 1988 in Vienna, Austria

Lives and works in Vienna

Education

2011 Newcastle School of Arts and Cultures, United Kingdom, Erasmus Scholarship

2012 Painting, University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria

2012 Diploma with Distinction, University of Applied Arts, Vienna (Prof. Judith Eisler)

Solo Exhibitions

2022 *Titania Seidl*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

2021 *see it as a stranger might*, Bildraum 07, Vienna, Austria

2020 *Prêt-à-Porter*, Daihatsu Rooftop Gallery, Wien, Austria (collaboration with Lukas Thaler)
for future finders, Bruch und Dallas, Köln, Germany (with Lukas Thaler)

2019 *Mary Sue (her raw gaze)*, Quadrado Azul, Porto, Portugal

Mary Sue (her face reads like language), a271, Düsseldorf, Germany

W I D D E R II, white dwarf magazine, Vienna, Austria

Prêt-à-porter, Centrum, Berlin, Germany (with Lukas Thaler)

2018 *like a tightly knotted ball of thread*, refusing to unravel, destiny's atelier, Oslo (NO)

fists with your toes, Parallel Vienna

2016 *why the long face, black sphinx*, Drop City, Newcastle, United Kingdom (with Daniel Ferstl and Lukas Thaler)

2015 *composition w. potted plants, vases, drapery, marble,...*, MUSA, Vienna, Austria

For Aliens When Humankind is Gone, mo.ë, Vienna, Austria (with Melanie Ebenhoch)

2014 *X. marks the spot*, AIRY, Kofu City, Japan

a walk, a wall, some mountains, Showroom for Young Art, Vienna, Austria (with Laura Pöld)

2013 *Civility, the fine forms, the old paintings and so on*, Galerie ART, Brno, Czechia

Redox, Sammlung Lenikus STUDIOS, Wien, Austria (with Katharina Monka)

2012 *Inversion* (degree show), Reisnerstr. 9, Wien, Austria

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *phoenix* (collaboration with Lukas Thaler, curated by Michal Stolarik), White&Weiss Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia

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- Domino*, Raum mit Licht, Wien, Austria
A brief affair, Galerie 5020, Salzburg, Austria
- 2020 *Antroporary* (collaboration with Lukas Thaler, curated by Michal Stolarik), Jan Koniarek Gallery, Trnava, Slovakia
unchain #1 (curated by Amer Abbas), WAF, Wien, Austria
why not take all of me (curated by Anna Khordokovskaya), Kunstraum Korb, Wien, Austria
- 2019 *Anything Goes* (curated by Michal Stolarik), White & Weiss Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
Destiny's Gratinée, Kunstneres Hus, Oslo, Norway
The Hanging of Traitors in Effigie, Belvedere21, Vienna, Austria (as part of Über das Neue)
The Hanging of Traitors in Effigie (Part II), Pencil Factory, New York City
Wiener Salon (curated by Antje Prisker), Brüssel, Belgium
Breathless Dromedary, In Spite Of, Porto, Portugal
Just a detail, Raum mit Licht, Vienna, Austria
Your delicious dreaming (curated by Nika Kupyrova), Salon Goldschlag, Wien, Austria
- 2018 *The Yips*, Gallery Céline, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Framed / Unframed, Raum mit Licht, Vienna, Austria
Unter Bildern (curated by Anette Freudenberger), Heiligenkreuzerhof, Vienna, Austria
The Eventuality Dispenser, Fettes College, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Ergonomics, Material Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico
The Serious Fraud Office, Hotel Casa Blanca, Mexico City, Mexico
Carved and Shaped by Proximity, Pina, Vienna, Austria
- 2017 *A painter's doubt* (curated by Seamus Kealey), Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria
stonewashed volume one (curated by Konstantin Lannert), Vienna, Austria
Monson (curated by Domenico de Chirico), Suprainfinit Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
Is she Iceman or is she Goose?, SORT, New York, United States
Drop City, MUHKA, Antwerpen, Belgium
- 2016 *Tropical Punch* (curated by Sabrina Möller), Galerie Nathalie Halgand, Vienna
MAUVE, Club Pro, Los Angeles; *Instagram Now!*, Belvedere, Vienna, Austria
Summer in the City, Galerie Christine König, Vienna, Austria
nonstreaming artifacts, easyupstream, Munich, Germany
Die sonderbare Gegenwart zu zweit, _____ Tim Nolas, Vienna, Austria
XENA, we are hercules, Munich, Germany
- 2015 *...sharing space* (curated by Victoria Dejaco), Alte Post, Vienna, Austria
The Hour Blue, FormContent, Vienna, Austria
dreaming dict cc, Skulpturinstut, Vienna, Austria
Ezara Spangl & Rainer Spangl, ve.sch, Vienna, Austria
Leicht gegenüber (with Melanie Ebenhoch), Fuggerstrasse 40, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 *Joseph Helland/Titania Seidl/Franz Zar* (curated by Melanie Ohnemus), wellwellwell, Vienna, Austria
one, MAUVE gallery / work, (with Daniel Ferstl, Lukas Thaler, Salvatore Viviano) Vienna, Austria
Wellenlänge I, mo.ë, Vienna, Austria
Goofy, studios das weiße haus, Vienna, Austria
First Emerald, then Sapphire, then Black, Semperdepot, Vienna, Austria
beyond mimesis - the unwritten, mo.ë, Vienna, Austria

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Residencies, Grants, Awards

- 2019 Artist in Residence, a271, Düsseldorf
- 2016 Mentoring Program for Artists, Arts and Culture Division of the Federal Chancellery of Austria
- 2015 Start Stipendium, Arts and Culture Division of the Federal Chancellery of Austria
- 2014 Artist in Residence, AIRY, Kofu-Shi, Japan
Working Grant of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research
- 2013 Artist in Residence at Sammlung Lenikus, Vienna
- 2010 Winner of the Fred-Adlmüller Stipend

Public and Private Collections

Belvedere 21 State Collection, Austria
City of Vienna Collection, Austria
Lenikus Collection, Vienna, Austria
Mayr-Melnhof Collection, Austria
Tyrol State Collection, Austria
Strabag Collection, Austria