

MEDIA INFORMATION

puzzled

Duo Exhibition

Opening: TH, 10 06 2021, 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Duration: FR, 11 06 2021 – SA, 31 07 2021

Artists: Susanna Flock & Xénia Laffely

Curator: Katharina Brandl

PRESS TOUR: WE, 09 06 2021, 10:00 am

**PRESS and
IMAGE MATERIAL:** www.kunstraum.net/en/press

PROGRAMME:

Curator Tours

SA, 12 06 2021, 1:00 pm

SA, 03 07 2021, 1:00 pm

Public Guided Tours

TH, 10 06 2021, 4:00 pm

SA, 17 07 2021, 1:00 pm

SA, 31 07 2021, 1:00 pm

Instagram Live Tour (online)

Come Together Tour

Performance Workshop

Digging into the Archive (with Olivia Jaques and Marlies Surtmann)

SA, 26 06 2021, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

puzzled

As many of us have increasingly experienced work in home office in the last year, latest by now it should be quite clear: In the twenty-first century the dividing lines between the analogue and digital world have dissolved. Expressions like digital detox, the intentional abstinence from Internet services, are commonplace. But a digital detox for longer than a day is hard to bear, unless you live alone in the woods. All of our lives take place in the digital realm just as much as they do in the allegedly “real” analogue. But what actually happens in the transition zones between the analogue and digital? Is there a no woman’s land between these rather blurry border crossings? In **puzzled**, the new exhibition of Kunstrraum Niederoesterreich curated by artistic director **Katharina Brandl**, two artists – **Susanna Flock** and **Xénia Laffely** – are brought together, who explore the interface between the analogue and the digital with very different creative approaches.

In her artistic practice the Austrian artist **Susanna Flock** examines how digitalisation has changed the conditions of human life. Flock works with text, sound, photography, graphics, installation, and – above all – video. For **puzzled** she contributes three video installations and a series of five photograms. One example of her approach to the overlaps between the analogue and digital can be seen in her video *I don’t exist yet* (2019): It investigates the techniques behind perfectly animated digital worlds, which have been enhanced with computer-generated imagery (CGI). Flock is interested in placeholder objects, objects that are usually invisible for the viewer, and provides behind-the-scenes insights into digital imagery. Synthetically composed bodies are also featured in Flock’s latest work, the multi-channel video installation *Building AI out of Clay* (2021), in which we encounter a Frankenstein-like being. Cast into the world, without companion, it tries to orient itself with the aid of its smartphone. *Building AI out of Clay* and the video work *Mukbang* (2021), which deals with the eponymous Internet phenomenon, will be shown for the first time in the framework of this exhibition.

Ideas from Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* also seem to haunt the works by Montréal-based Swiss artist **Xénia Laffely**. She bridges analogue and digital worlds by creating images in Photoshop, which derive from various items in her archive: selfies with Instagram filters, snapshots or screenshots merge with one another. Laffely then translates this new digital imagery into textiles – not only the image content but also the very nature of the software to structure information into layers. This technique resulted in large-scale textile works such as *J’ai la gueule tordue* (2019), which are quilted and embroidered yet clearly possess a digital aesthetic, or the textile pillow series *Foam* (2020–21) that places viewers in a

stareddown with bizarre faces treated with Instagram filters. In the framework of **puzzled** Laffely's works are show in Austria for the first time.

"The digital is an amorphous substance that we absorb, that permeates us. One could also summarise the subtext of the artistic practices in this duo exhibition in this way: Clear dividing lines between the analogue and digital world no longer exist, and this is precisely why Susanna Flock and Xénia Laffely unravel the transition zones between the analogue and the digital. Even though their respective approaches to the topic seem to differ at first glance – above all, in their media of choice – their practices resonate. (Curator Katharina Brandl)

The artists

Susanna Flock

The Austrian artist Susanna Flock studied Experimental Design in the Fine Art programme at the University of Art and Design Linz and Video and Video Installation at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In her artistic works she explores the relationship of the body to its technologically mediated environment. Recently she was awarded the *Pixel, Bytes and Film Residency* (2020), the *Viktor-Fogarassy-Price* (2019), and the *Startstipendium für Medienkunst Österreich* (2018). Her works have been shown at numerous international film festivals and art spaces, and her latest solo exhibition in 2020 titled *Try to change the angle of the sun* was hosted by the Titanik Gallery in Turku (FI). In the same year she also participated with a video installation in the group exhibition *Stormy Weather* at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich. Susanna Flock lives and works in Vienna (AT).

Xénia Laffely

Xénia Laffely is a Swiss artist and designer who has been living and working in Montréal (CA) since 2019. She studied fashion design at the Haute Ecole d'Art et de design de Genève as well as French literature and art history at the University of Lausanne. Since 2017 she has centred her artistic practice around translating digital, networked images into textiles and ceramics. In her works she combines the traditional language of quilting and patchwork with the contemporary aesthetic of digital imagery to arrive at her hybrid creations, which challenge the hierarchies between art, design, and handcraft. She was one of the winners of the 2018 *Swiss Design Awards* for her series of twelve embroidered blankets, a personal feminist genealogy that was shown in several solo and group exhibitions across Europe. In 2020 she was shortlisted for the *Swiss Art Awards*.

Images available for download

Susanna Flock



Susanna Flock: *Building AI out of Clay* (2021), Multi-channel video installation



Susanna Flock: *Building AI out of Clay* (2021), Multi-channel video installation



Susanna Flock: *Mukbang* (2021), Two-channel video installation



Susanna Flock: *I don't exist yet* (2020), Color digital video, 16:9



Susanna Flock: *Dough* (2018), Photogram in plexiglass frame, b/w on silver gelatine paper

Xénia Laffely



Instadismorphia II (2021). Upholstery with Embroidery, 90 x 110 x 30



Xénia Laffely: *Property of love* (2020). Layers of printed textile (organza, velvet, satin), quilted and embroidered, 60 x 80



Xénia Laffely: *Stealing their childhood pics* (2020). Layers of printed textile (organza, velvet, satin), quilted and embroidered, 90 x 120



Xénia Laffely: *From beneath you it devours* (2020). Upholstery with Embroidery, 100 x 70 x 20



Xénia Laffely: *J'ai la gueule tordue* (2019). Layers of printed satin and velvet quilted, 160 x 180

Press contact:

Marina Ninić, marina.ninic@kunstraum.net, +43 664 60 499 194

Image material: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

Opening hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free entrance