

Stéphanie Saadé**Building a Home with Time****Exhibition: August 28 – October 1, 2016****Opening: August 27, 2016, 6:30pm to 9pm****Performance: August 28, 2016, 4pm**

Stéphanie Saadé's works take as a departure point the moment when one becomes estranged from his/her surroundings. The artist explores the shape, or the shapes of distance, and makes them visible. A process of Artificial Nostalgia is developed, through which strange locations, familiar to the artist, are assembled. The nature of links is questioned, their persistence or their ephemerality.

In her exhibition *Building a Home with Time* Lebanese artist Saadé explores various aesthetics of time-space, derived in part from her personal history, memories of locality and childhood, ruminations about displacement and in so doing relates poetry to the realm of time. It features new works by Saadé, including *Magic Hours*, *Building a Home with Time* and *A Play of One Actress*.

Building a Home with Time (2016), the centerpiece of the exhibition, is a large-scale installation, recalling the spatial semblance of a room. The room is proportional to the artist's childhood room, and has been built with 2,832 bricks. This number is the exact number of days between Saadé's date of birth and the end of the Lebanese Civil War. This incidentally also corresponds roughly to the number of days in early childhood, which ends around the age of eight. Inseparable and aligned, this violent political event, the war, and what is usually thought of to be a very sweet moment in life, early childhood, give shape to a space. With its simplicity this rough construction alludes to a shelter, whether it is one that children like to play in, or one where cover is sought; It is also reminiscent of unfinished houses, visible all over Lebanon, never completed but playing an important aesthetical role in the Lebanese landscape. After the end of the exhibition, the room will be destructed.

In another newly realized work, *A Play of One Actress*, Saadé looks at the surreality and construction of memory and personality: What do we selectively or unconsciously remember or grasp onto and why? In which instances does memory fail us and why? Saadé has asked a 33-year-old actress Minna Wündrich, to recall, for the period of one month—the month of her birthday—all the verses she remembers from all of the theatre performances that she had ever played in. Fragments of plays surface, while others are completely forgotten. Wündrich enacts various distinct characters, mainly but not only, women. From the cultivated and witty spirit of the Devil, Mephistopheles, in *Faust I* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1808) to the loyal Julie in *Danton's Death* by Georg Büchner (1835). An alloy of literary texts is constructed, from classics to contemporary plays, spanning from 1784 to 2013. The work is made up of three parts: a book, a performance and a video. The actress will perform live her own recollections on August 28th. Thereafter the video will accompany the book.

Counter Space is an independent exhibition and project venue in Zurich, where contemporary and process-like methods in artistic practice are presented. The programme is curated by Angelo Romano and Linda Jensen; Yasmin Kiss (Research and Text); Vicenta Rodrigo-Jiménez (Administration); Tashi Brauen (Associate); Fiorenza Bossard (Intern). Counter Space would like to thank the following individuals for their help in the realization of this exhibition: Aurelia Adamo, Andria Calado, Irena Jensen, Gennarino Romano, Ismail Mohammadi, Rebeca Rodrigo-Jiménez, Lobsang Tashi Sotrug, Ursula Sulser, Peter Traenkle, and Felix Walker.

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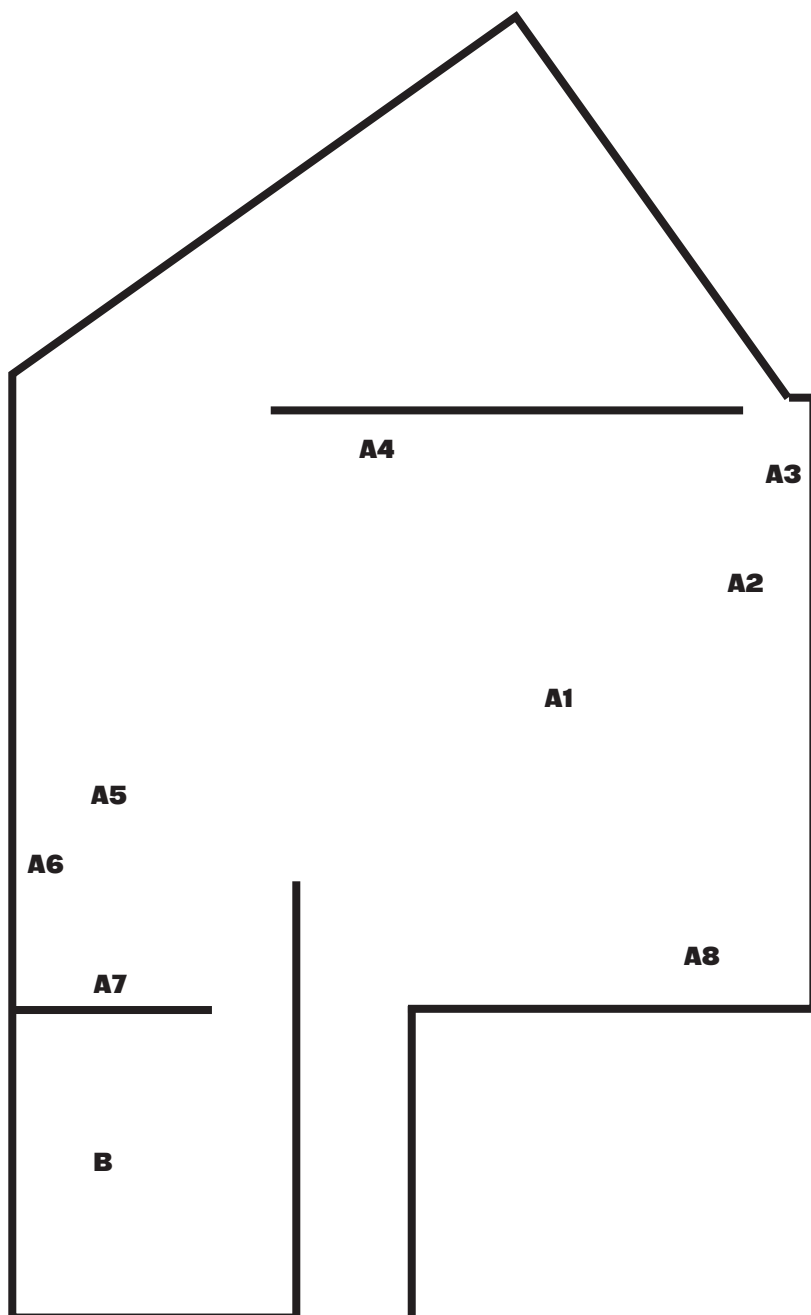


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COUNTER SPACE



Exhibition

Building a Home with Time

Stéphanie Saadé

August 27 – October 1, 2016

A1

Building a Home with Time

2016

2,832 bricks, cement

12 x 599 x 629 x 277,5cm

A2

Re-enactment LB/ Chandelier

2012

Old chandelier, Plum Blossom Energy-Saving lamp, cable, plug

Dimensions variable

A3

Re-Enactment NL/ Lock

2016

Lock in wall

Height: 160cm

A4

Re-Enactment CH/ Abus

2013

Nickel handles, chain, padlock from the brand ABUS

10 x 50 x 100cm

A5

Under Cover

2012–2016

Printed photograph (75 x 200cm), blanket (160 x 210cm)

75 x 50 x 23.5cm

A6

Sensitive Hammer

2014

Handmade hammer, wood, aluminum, paint

1,7 x 9,5 x 26,5cm

A7

A Play of One Actress (Minna Wünderlich)

2014–2016

Script, performance, video

A8

Magic Hours

2016

29 prints on plexiglass, 5 x 8,8cm each, screenshots of mobile phone display, taken between March 21 and end of March, 2016, and June 1 and June 20, 2016

Dimensions variable

B

Sourcing Manifesta

Manifesta Parallel Events

A1

Building a Home with Time

2016

2,832 bricks, cement

12 x 599 x 629 x 277,5cm

A room, proportional to the artist's childhood room, is built with a number of bricks corresponding to the number of days between the artist's birth and the end of the Lebanese Civil War. By coincidence, this number of days also corresponds to the artist's early childhood.

A2

Re-enactment LB/ Chandelier

2012

Old chandelier, Plum Blossom Energy-Saving lamp, cable

Dimensions variable

A configuration seen in a traditional Beirut house—a lamp used as a support for another lamp—is reproduced. A relationship develops between two generations of objects. *Re-Enactment* (ongoing series, 2013-present) is centred on objects fabricated by others, that the artist reproduces. Encountered by chance in different places, the chosen objects escape standardization. They have been conceived according to a strange logic, different from the artist's own. Through the process of reproduction, this foreign logic is appropriated. The re-created objects surpass practicality. *Re-Enactment* generates a slow collection of unimportant, neglected objects, which quickly would disappear otherwise. The lifetime of the objects is extended.

A3

Re-Enactment NL/ Lock

2016

Padlock in wall

Height: 160cm

A lock inserted into a wall, at the height of the head, originally encountered by the artist in Maastricht, is reproduced.

A4

Re-Enactment CH/ Abus

2013

Nickel handles, chain, padlock from the brand ABUS

10 x 50 x 100cm

A closing system, formed by a chain taking the shape of a triangle with a lock with the brand Abus is reproduced. It is the way that a formica closet, which the artist discovered in Bern, is re-enacted.

A5

Under Cover

2012–2016

Printed photograph (75 x 200cm), blanket (150 x 200cm)

75 x 50 x 23.5 cm

A piece of sky, extracted from a childhood photograph, is enlarged and folded together with a blanket.

A6

Sensitive Hammer

2014

Handmade hammer, wood, aluminum, paint

1,7 x 9,5 x 26,5cm

A hammer's head is made out of a malleable metal, keeping the trace of every hit that it strikes. It is the artist's own hammer, used while making works and while installing shows.

A7

A Play of One Actress (Minna Wünderlich)

2014–2016

Printed script, performance, video

For a period of one month—the month of her birthday—a 33-year-old actress recalls lines from her memory based on all the plays that she has ever played in. A new script is established out of her personal recollections, which she performs herself.

A8

Magic Hours

2016

29 prints on plexiglass, 5 x 8,8cm each, screenshots of mobile phone display, taken between March 21 and end of March, 2016, and June 1 and June 20, 2016

Dimensions variable

At moments of the day, the clock displays double digits. When noticed, this uncanny occurrence distracts the viewer from his/her original purpose: one ends up looking at the visual effect produced rather than at the time.





























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Building a Home with Time

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Stéphanie Saadé
A Play of One Actress (Minna Wünderich)
 2014–2016
 Script, performance, video

Based on and performed by Minna Wünderich
 Research: Yasmin Kiss
 Translation from German into English: Mirjam Bayerdörfer

For a period of one month—the month of her birthday—a 33-year-old actress recalled lines from her memory, based on all the plays that she has ever played in. A new script was established out of her personal recollections, which she now will perform herself.

For the performance Minna Wünderich will perform her recollections from days 03.10.2014, 07.10.2014 and 14.10.2014.

CHARACTERS (appearing in the performance)

MINNA (Mephistopheles)	1808	<i>Faust</i> by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
MINNA (Sydney)	2000	<i>The Altruists</i> by Nicky Silver
MINNA (Luise)	1784	<i>Intrigue and Love</i> by Friedrich Schiller
MINNA (Dora)	2013	<i>Es wird einmal</i> by Martin Heckmanns
MINNA (Doris)	2009	<i>Kein Schiff wird kommen</i> by Nis-Momme Stockmann
MINNA (Schlee)	1980	<i>Der Bau</i> by Heiner Müller
MINNA (Johanna)	1801	<i>The Maid of Orleans</i> by Friedrich Schiller
MINNA (Lucy)	1843	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens
MINNA (Marie)	1837	<i>Woyzeck</i> by Georg Büchner
MINNA (Die Alleinerziehende)	2009	<i>Nachtaryl Stuttgart</i> by Volker Lösch after Maxim Gorki's "Na dne" and 33 Stuttgart citizens

Stéphanie Saadé was born in Lebanon in 1983. She lives and works between Beirut and Paris. The artist explores the shape, or the shapes, of distance, and makes them visible, as well as the changes in shape of the individual that goes through this estrangement. A process of Artificial Nostalgia is developed, through which strange locations, familiar to the artist, are assembled. The nature of links is questioned, their persistence or their ephemerality. She was an artist in residence at the Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, The Netherlands (2014/2015), Cité Internationale des arts, Paris, France (2015) and PROGR, Bern, Switzerland (2013). She

has had recent exhibitions at Home Works 7, Beirut, Lebanon / Museum Schloss Moyland, Bedburg-Hau, Germany / Cité de la Céramique, Sèvres, France / Parc Saint Léger, Nevers, France / La Traverse, Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Alfortville, Alfortville, France / MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium / Marres, Maastricht, The Netherlands / Mosaic Rooms, London, UK / La Conservera, Centro de Arte Contemporaneo, Murcia, Spain / New Positions, Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany / Van Eyck, Maastricht, The Netherlands / Beirut Art Center, Beirut, Lebanon.

Minna Wünderich was born in 1983 in Bremen, Germany. She studied acting from 2003 to 2007 at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Leipzig. During her studies she starred in various plays at the Staatsschauspiel Dresden, before becoming a member of the ensemble in 2006. From 2008-2013 she was engaged at the Staatstheater Stuttgart, then from 2013-2016 at the Schauspielhaus Bochum and is currently at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus. Directors she has been working with include Stephan Kimmig, Michael Thalheimer, Volker Lösch, Roger Vontobel, Claudia Bauer, Barbara Bürk and Marius von Mayenburg.

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