

GALERIE HOFMATT SARNEN
RÜTISTRASSE 23, 6060 SARNEN

24.08. - 22.09.2024

KYLIN LEE & LIZ KUENEKE



EXHIBIT TEXT

EXPLORATIONS OF TERRITORY: SARNERSEE

GALERIE HOFMATT SARNEN

Those who are not born in a place have a different perspective on that same place than those who are. Liz and Kylin have lived in Sarnen for several years and have explored the landscape in their own distinctive ways, finding their own place in a new territory. Their explorations and experiments, driven by curiosity and awe of the surrounding beauty, have inspired the works in the gallery. They have explored by walking the land, rowing and paddling on the lake, floating down the river, biking up the mountains, and even by stitching the landscape.

One of Liz's main artistic endeavors is participative mapping and embroidery. She embroidered Lake Sarnen as a way to explore and get to know this new place she found herself in. She began by stitching the map while also exploring the territory...stitching up at Landenberg, in a field of flowers, on a paddle boat in the middle of the lake, on a bench at the lake. She lets the landscape soak into her being through her senses and through her fingers. Using what is known as the "running stitch," but which she prefers to call "the walking stitch", she explored the land step by step and stitch by stitch. Then she took the map to different locations and opened it up for public participation, asking people to embroider significant places for them into the map.

The collaboration between Liz and Kylin began this way. Kylin and her daughter came to see and participate in the mapping project Liz was doing in Sarnen.

Kylin is a hand bookbinder and craftsperson trained in traditional techniques. She now combines these traditional methods with new materials to create contemporary forms that still carry the essence of book and boxmaking. Her small works and attention to detail, sometimes stitching as well, connect to Liz's work on the physical level of threads and tiny stitches.

Liz and Kylin discovered that they were both artists living in Sarnen and exploring their surroundings in different ways. Physically, through biking, rowing, paddling, and synchronized swimming, they explore the topography, the elements, and the meanings attached to different places. For this exhibition, Kylin and Liz have created several site-specific works, specific to Sarnen and the Hofmatt Gallery in particular. Poetic and geographical explorations of the territory, tied together with threads, water and the reflections of two women who are not from here, but who find creative ways to be part of it.

Kylin Lee und Liz Kueneke, Galerie Hofmatt, August 2024

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WORKS:

Performance in the Sarnen Aa River

Title: Home is Inside of Me

Artist: Liz Kueneke

Medium: Performance - wood, paint, foam, cloth

Liz floats down the Sarnen Aa River with a replica of the Hofmatt house as her swimming costume. Our home is something that is carried inside of us, no matter where we move to.

Hallway

Photographs that document the process of our exploration of the territory

Artists: Liz Kueneke, Kylin Lee and others (see map detail)

Medium: Photography on board

Gallery Room

Title: {are we?} invasive species

Artist: Kylin Lee

[north window] Asian clams, river stones

[east window] Asian clams, river stones

[northeast corner] Zebra mussels on driftwood

[east wall] Zebra mussels on driftwood

Medium: board, paper, Tyvek, neodymium magnets, pigments, acrylic

We are not the only non-natives living here. What is our place and our role in this environment? Are we threat to the natural ecosystem?

Title: Lake Reflection

Artist: Liz Kueneke

Medium: Hemp cloth, hemp thread embroidery, cotton thread installation, sewing pins

The cloth map of Lake Sarnen and its surroundings, especially all waterways leading down into the lake. Hand-embroidered map with symbols embroidered by participants from Sarnen to mark places of significance.

Here the map forms an installation with the corner of the room and is connected by many threads to sewing pins to the two walls, forming once again the silhouette of the lake.

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Panorama Room

Title: (are we?) invasive species

Artist: Kylin Lee

Zebra mussels on driftwood

Medium: board, paper, Tyvek, neodymium magnets, pigments, acrylic

We are not the only non-natives living here. What is our place and our role in this environment? Are we threat to the natural ecosystem?

Title: Past and Present Intertwined

Artist: Liz Kueneke

Medium: Hemp cloth, cotton thread

A hand-embroidered scene to complete the missing section of the historic panorama of the Sarnen area. The artists and other figures let themselves flow into the scene in contemporary form.

Title: Seerunde

Artist: Kylin Lee

Medium: Stone veneer

Möbius: a meditation on the changing perspectives of the mountain panorama and its reflection in the water of lake Sarnen.

Cellar Cubbyholes

Title: Dedicated to the Underwater World of the Lake

Artist: Liz Kueneke

Medium: cardboard, paint, wire

Dioramas of underwater scenes in the lake. A diving duck, various aquatic plants, the legs of a human swimmer, the paddle end of an oar, fish swimming, columns of bubbles, the stems of lily pads, toads and their pearl-like strings of eggs.

Cellar Main Room

Title: Sublacustrine

Artists: Kylin Lee and Liz Kueneke

Medium: paper, glue, wire, video projection

An immersive installation of the underwater world of Lake Sarnen. Giant paper lilypads float near the ceiling while their stems twist down to the ground. Underwater scenes filmed in the lake are projected into the space.

BIOGRAPHIES

Liz Kueneker

Since 2004, Liz Kueneker has been investigating the relationships that people have with their environment through the use of participatory mapping and embroidery interventions. She is fascinated by the human urban and rural experiences and the different layers of meaning attached to the public and private spaces that we inhabit, and how the changes taking place in our cities and countrysides are affecting our lives. She has been especially influenced by people such as the urban planner Kevin Lynch and the Situationists. Her project "The Urban Fabric" has taken place in Fez (Morocco), Quito (Ecuador), Bangalore (India), Barcelona (Spain), and in New York City (USA). Similar projects were done in Los Angeles, Riobamba (Ecuador), and most recently in Sefrou (Morocco) for the Sefrou Association for Multidisciplinary Arts, and in Zurich for an exhibition at the ZAZ (Zentrum Architektur Zürich). The Urban Fabric project was also selected to be part of an exhibition in the Museum of the City in Quito, Ecuador, as part of Habitat III, the U.N.'s conference on urban sustainability.

In 2020, in addition to her mapping, she created a new branch of investigation using artistic swimming as an artistic tool. Constantly exploring new rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, she attempts both to connect on a deeper level to nature, and to transmit the beauty and fragility of our planet.

Born in Chicago in 1976, she received a dual degree in Fine Arts and French Literature in 1998 from Georgetown University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University (Los Angeles) in 2001. In addition to her artistic practice she also curates exhibitions, and gives workshops to art and architecture students on psychogeography and participatory mapping. She has lived in Spain since 2003 and Sarnen, for a few months a year, since 2018.

www.lizkueneker.com

Kylin Lee Achermann

Kylin Lee Achermann is an American born hand bookbinder and craftsperson. Her work focuses on contemporary bookbinding and using those materials and techniques as a launching point for the design and creation of a variety of beautiful and functional objects. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Photography and Cognitive Science, Kylin dedicated eight years to working for and learning from Master Bookbinder Daniel Kelm in his Massachusetts studio. In 2007 Kylin established her own studio producing small editions of artist books and fine press books. Since moving to Switzerland in 2010, she has focused on research and innovation in book and box structures as well as teaching workshops and masterclasses in Europe and the USA. She lives with her family in Sarnen.

www.kylinlee.com | www.buchundform.ch