

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Philomène Amougou and Camille Roded, 'Chrysalis'
Window Project 2020

Window Project 2020 *Philomène Amougou and Camille Roded*

Performance: Saturday July 11th, 6–6.30pm (BST)

Zoom Link: us02web.zoom.us/j/84335737454

Exhibition: July 9th– August 29th, 2020

Gazelli Art House are excited to present Philomène Amougou and Camille Roded, winners of the Window Project 2020. The collaborative London-based artist duo have taken over the windows of the gallery with their 16mm photographic stills 'Chrysalis', which play on the direct participatory relationship between filmmaker and performer. The altered facade of the building will generate a metaphorical fourth dimension between body, space, time culture and identity, echoing the great transparency as first proposed by Marcel Duchamp.

The photographs, installed chronologically on the gallery windows, act as enlarged eco graphs of the human body, with an intention to bring the viewer into the 'birth' process. Articulated by gesture this 'stop motion choreography' captures poses that model our cyclic growth. Staged and filmed under a glass skylight roof, this series of works propose a macroscopic observation of a floating body; free of perspective, in an embryonic state.

Simultaneously, the installation creates a dialogue between the public and private space as a prism that alters and anticipates an exchange, and creates a crystalline growth and awareness for reflection and subtle sensory stimulation rather than consumption. Within the struggle of confinement, for the artists, the perception of space became an analogy for looking inward, suggesting that absolute attention to the physical world can lead to a path beyond phenomenology.

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Alongside the Window Project, multimedia artist Philomène Amougou will present her upcoming series of bodily performances ‘*Womb cell & Umbilical roots*’ 2020. As a displaced Afro-European artist and woman, these pieces will explore themes of feminine identity, spirituality and rituals to re-enact the divine cycle of creation and chaos. As a celebration of rebirth and symbol of a new beginning in response to our biological and cultural climate crisis, this body of work is a call for freedom and unification, a need of reconnection between the roots of our land and our DNA.

“It is about instinct, trying to unpuzzle an over-floating irruption of things to say, and things to ask. It is about roots and history, about understanding one’s identity and unresolved questions of a mixed-raced artist who is ready for a revealed story. A choreographic manifestation of bodies fighting for a renewed harmony between environment and society” - Philomène Amougou

Anticipating the post-Covid era, the performance stages a ‘domestic living cell’ that offers a metaphor for the human organism on multiple scales, mirroring the dystopian reality of our current environment. The work reflects on the molecular process of pandemic and contamination via morphology that is both corporal and environmental, as well as questions the future of humankind as involuntary specimens for experimentation.

About the Artists

In her creative process the French-Cameroonian artist **Philomène Amougou** (b. 1996) takes on the role of a scientific archaeologist who digs into the earth’s core in an attempt to reconcile the creative and destructive forces of nature. Understanding biodiversity as a way to explore the evolution of form, the seed of her work evolves through an ‘embryonic germination’. Originating from drawing and painting, and running through sculpture, installation and performance with filmmaking being the final stage, her body of work lives in its own mythological world, yet probes the dilemmas and traumas that shape our time. In 2019 Amougou graduated from History & Philosophy of Art at Sorbonne, Paris and Central Saint Martins, London in Fine Art.

Camille Roded was born in Tel-Aviv and is a practicing visual artist and filmmaker living in London. She studied at Central Saint Martins, completing her BA in Communication Design, majoring in Moving Image in 2019. Camille is interested in exploring film as a tangible medium through installation, crossing disciplines between moving image, print, and set design while continually working and manipulating archival materials. Through this medium she explores personal stories and expands them into an immersive environment, to encourage active engagement for the viewer, beyond the single screen.

About the Window Project

Since its launch during the London Olympics in 2012, the Window Project has established itself as a significant platform for artists to display site-specific works on the windows of the London gallery. Willing to support the next generation of artists and curators and in the framework of its educational programme, Gazelli Art House gives a unique opportunity for MA and post-graduate students to exhibit a body of their work selected by an external jury usually composed of a collector, a curator and a critic.

For further press information, images and requests please contact: press@gazelliarthouse.com