

Media release
Basel, October 29, 2018

Sophie Jung
The Bigger Sleep—Manor Art Award

December 1, 2018–February 3, 2019, Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart
Curators: Eva Falge, Philipp Selzer

The winner of this year's Manor Art Award, Sophie Jung (b. 1982) presents an exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart titled *The Bigger Sleep*, a work created especially for the occasion.

Jung's work blends performance, sculpture, and writing. Her sculptures are usually composed of found materials of all kind, which the artist assembles into new objects and so endows them with a novel horizon of meaning. Detritus such as a grotto fountain, military neckties, and black cat cuddly toys come together in surreal sculptures in which repetition and cross-references raise questions of original and copy, reality and fiction. These objects then serve as the basis and source of inspiration for Jung's texts or performances, in which the artist explores philosophical timely grievances and current affairs. At the heart of her work is a playful yet exceptionally complex engagement with language.

The title of her exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart references to Raymond Chandler's 1939 novel *The Big Sleep*. Howard Hawks' 1946 movie adaptation, now a film noir classic, portrays the illusions and disillusionment of Great Depression-era America on the eve of war. The artist's performance takes inspiration from the novel's atmosphere of disorganization and despair, gradually interweaving snippets of angry text and somnambulant moods to build slapstick-like narratives that seem to defy all logic. Pinpointing the sensitivities of contemporary society, Jung's fragmented narratives throw the theatricality of the real and the authenticity of play into relief. Harnessing the complexities of language, she makes subtle alterations to open up new dimensions of meaning.

The Bigger Sleep is a serene riddle that does not beckon to be unriddled. Yet its intractability is not a dead end, instead charting individual and auspicious escape routes that might establish a sense of agency, of action in a glossy but crumbling world of mirrors where nothing seems as it is.

Sophie Jung studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, and received a master's degree in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London. She has realized exhibitions and projects in Switzerland, England, and the United States. In 2016, her work was honored with the Swiss Art Award.

Endowed thirty-six years ago, the Manor Art Award promotes young Swiss visual artists working in painting, sculpture, photography, video art, and installation art. It is regarded as one of the most important awards for rising contemporary artists in Switzerland.

A publication will be released in conjunction with the exhibition.

The exhibition is supported by:

Manor

Le Fonds stART-up de l'Œuvre Nationale de Secours Grande-Duchesse Charlotte

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Media conference

No media conference will be held for this exhibition. However, you will have an opportunity to preview the show after the media conference for the exhibition *Carl Burckhardt. Classical Spirit—Modern Form*, which will be held at the Kunstmuseum Basel | Hauptbau on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 11am.

Opening reception

Friday, November 30, 2018, 6:30pm

Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart, St. Alban-Rheinweg 60, 4052 Basel

Imagery and information on the exhibition

www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/medien

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