

Press Release

Nora Turato: explained away
22 February–19 May 2019

Nora Turato (born 1991, Zagreb, Croatia) defines language as the foundation of her work, from which she creates artworks in a variety of media. Of particular interest are her spoken-word performances, which garnered notice at the Venice Biennale in 2015, eliciting invitations from prominent museums. Turato's performances confront the audience with a transformed reality. The language she uses is the language of our everyday lives: fragments from social media, politics, literature, journalism and popular culture. The result is a constantly growing script that serves as the basis for her performances, but also as a source for artist's books, wall texts, works on paper, videos and audio works.

explained away at Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is set in a realm between familiar modes of presentation and scenographies geared to performances. Using the entire upper floor, the installations ***it's a good thing he didn't click; someone who was in two minds about things, perhaps*** and ***no dignity in death, i'm afraid*** (all 2019) focus on themes from edited scripts. These scripts create an atmosphere that draws on the content, but they also structure the space, play with the history of sculpture and serve the performer quite literally as props, as requisites (from the Latin requisita = requirements).

The work constantly enters new fields. For example, the installations and video ***but it will take up hardly any of your time – virtually none, in fact. what do you say?*** (2019), are accompanied by wall texts: in processes of internalisation, Turato copies her scripts by hand, continuing to edit, emphasise and determine the acoustic structure of the performances. The results are aesthetic manuscripts that play with the fetish for originality. Turato furthered this process by having a font designed ***fuck, fuck, fuckity, fuck, fuck*** (2019), based on her handwriting and used for the exhibition's wall texts. The individual elements in the process of creating her work become an instrument that undermines branding strategies.

In her performances Turato embodies a 'figure', or persona, and plays with social codes and enactment; dressing in high fashion for the shows allows her to distinguish between her private self and the figure. Influences from theatre and music videos, combined with references to the history of performance art, serve as parameters.

Turato's performances challenge the audience. Sonorous, melodious sequences are followed by shame-inducing sounds. Slow recitations of the script segue into fast-paced, hysterical verses. She creates a sense of intimacy, only to collapse this familiarity in an instant. The narrative meanders between gossipy text and political or sociocultural referents, between private and public. Now angry, now affirming, the performer shows her ambivalence to the content. In the process, she examines the superabundance of signs around us, recalling the methods of pop art.

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The artist responds to fluctuating phenomena in society and politics with a mercurial body of work. An extensive publication with contributions by Ana Janevski, Sohrab Mohebbi and Fabian Flückiger deals with this aspect in greater depth. Designed by Sabo Day, the publication will appear during the exhibition.

Nora Turato: explained away is the seventh exhibition in a series showcasing outstanding young artists (previous artists include Rita McBride, Fabian Marcaccio, Monika Sosnowska, Matti Braun, Bojan Šarčević and Charlotte Moth). Each artist in the series also installs one of the four main rooms with works from Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein's collection.

The exhibition, conceived in collaboration with Nora Turato, is a production of Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, curated by Fabian Flückiger.

Performances

Thursday, 21 February, 6 pm (opening)

Friday, 22 February, 2 pm

Saturday, 23 February, 2 pm

Sunday, 24 February, 11 am

Thursday, 28 March, 6 pm

Friday, 29 March, 2 pm

Saturday, 30 March, 2 pm

Sunday, 31 March, 11 am

Thursday, 16 May, 6 pm

Friday, 17 May, 2 pm

Saturday, 18 May, 2 pm

Sunday, 19 May, 11 am

Biography

Nora Turato studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam and at the Werkplaats Typografie in Arnheim. She is a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Her performances have been presented at institutions internationally, including Bielefelder Kunstverein; Museum Serralves, Porto; Manifesta, Palermo; Kunsthalle Wien; Kölnischer Kunstverein; KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin; Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and LambdaLambdaLambda, Pristina.