



**Philipp Hänger – Dear Optimist**

**03.06. – 02.08.2020**

The exhibition «Dear Optimist» by Philipp Hänger will be opened to the public starting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2020 under the relaxing measures of the COVID-19 regulation. There will be a variety of educational activities, which will be carried out in compliance with the hygiene and distance regulations by the BAG.

Programme / Mediation:

Saturday 13.06.2020, 14.00 to 19.00

Friday 17.07.2020, 14.00 to 19.00

Sunday 02.08.2020, 14.00 to 17.00

Artist Philipp Hänger and curator Michael Sutter are present

FR 17.07.2020, 19.00

Sound performance by FlipFloater

Further supporting programme and mediation offers will be continuously announced on Instagram, Facebook and by newsletter.

The solo exhibition «Dear Optimist» by artist Philipp Hänger is a complex network of associations of things and contents. The artist's conceptual point of departure is his first publication «Primeur», which was financed and published by the Aargauer Kuratorium in 2018. The publication called «You keep looking your way» consists of a multitude of single sheets, printed on both sides, which are constructed as a narrative potpourri of images and stories. Philipp Hänger mixes selected fragments of his works and objects from his personal collection to create a new substrate for endless stories, perspectives and ways of thinking.

Philipp Hänger has developed a walk-in installation explicitly for the long, curved showroom of the Kunsthalle Lucerne. which serves as a space of possibilities and is designed to be experienced by the visitors individually. Based on the predominant torque in the building (turntable in the Bourbaki Bistro, panoramic painting in the Bourbaki museum), he stages the exhibition as a multimedia environment that addresses the ambivalence between outside and inside and oscillates between chaos and order. Visitors activate different areas through their movements, which overlap each other with media and constantly generate a new spatial experience. Suddenly video projections start, the neon objects flicker up, the storm lamp burns, a thunderstorm appears on the screens and again and again the circle appears as a connecting element; circus tigers jump through burning tires, base jumpers fly through circular elements, motorcycles leave a rubber donut,



## kunsthalle luzern

which is present in the exhibition space as a floor installation or hangs on the wall in pressed form. Within a collaboration with the sound artist Claude Winterberg, parts of the atmospheric, electro-acoustic soundscape were created for the exhibition. At the centre of the exhibition space is a large mound of earth, which presents itself as a mixture of loose accumulation and landscape architecture installation and refers to the intervention in the cabinet of the Kunsthalle Lucerne. Visit the dripstone cave!

The artist is interested in site-specific installations with spatial references, which become independent as transformative processes and - partly obvious, partly hidden - cross-references in terms of content and form, which evoke different interpretations of the exhibition. He also wants to stimulate the different senses of the visitors and point out the possibility of collage-like thinking within the art production. Thus, Philipp Hänger presents subtle hints of processes of change (restoration option for a scrap car, return process of melted iceberg drinking water to a mini iceberg, organic energy drink becomes a Kombucha mushroom etc.), which change between naturalness and artificiality in a paradoxical way. Within this field of tension, the exhibition title "Dear Optimist" refers to ideas of progress and optimization, which, without taking counter-effects into account, seem like a forward-looking tunnel vision.

Philipp Hänger was born in 1982 in the canton of Basel-Stadt and grew up in Basel-Land. After completing a preliminary course in design at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), he completed a degree in industrial design at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland in Aarau. This was followed by a trainee program at Fuseproject New York under the direction of Ives Béhar. From 2012 to 2015 Philipp Hänger completed a Master of Fine Arts at the Zurich University of the Arts. In collaboration with the visual artist Marc Hartmann, he has realized numerous projects and exhibitions in recent years, including at the Kunsthau Zofingen, Kunsthau Aarau and Trudelhaus Baden. In 2018 he was awarded the first publication «Primeur» by the Aargauer Kuratorium. The artist lives and works in Aarau and Lenzburg.