

LUMA Foundation and Swiss Institute are pleased to announce:

**COOPER JACOBY: DISGORGERS**

On view: 18 November 2017 – 04 February 2018  
LUMA Westbau, Löwenbräukunst, Zurich

**Friday 17 November 2017**

11:00 Press Preview

18:00 Opening

The ‘gargoyle’, a grotesque architectural feature, takes its name from the old French *gargouille*, meaning ‘throat’ or ‘gullet’. The ‘throat’ in question is a drainage spout used to project rainwater away from the sides of buildings, preventing it from eroding their sides. In other words, the gargoyle’s mouth and throat are not meant for swallowing, but for expelling, for disgorging material. Many traditional gargoyle forms are drawn from pagan and mythological symbols, domesticated in Europe by the Christianity around the period of the Black Death as avatars of unexplainable social or biological terror. Now most commonly associated with religious buildings from the European Middle Ages, these depictions of evil, fearsome, repulsive or comedic creatures made their way into the designs of institutional buildings and other seats of power such as universities, banks and libraries during the Gothic revival.

Drawing from the hybridized forms of gargoyles and other grotesques, American artist Cooper Jacoby has created a series of sculptures derived from homesteading and off-the-grid appliances such as a stove, a water heater, a composter and radiators that are affixed with mouths based on gargoyles from these later ‘civic’ buildings.

For *Disgorgers*, these sculptures are tied together in an installation with a systemic logic of crisis, emergency and exhaustion, and emit a range of vapors, temperatures and sounds from their chorus of mouths.

The two gallery spaces oscillate between states of climactic and the suspension of regular activity. In the first area, sculptures play a collection of recorded telephone hold music, while light fixtures are modified to overheat expired fluorescent bulbs, causing the mercury calcified at their ends to glow like candles and flicker in a state of perpetual limbo. This is contrasted with sets of emergency operations in the second room that kick into action when systems fail. A backup generator powers the machinic gargoyle sculptures and highlights a tenuous relationship to infrastructure and totemic fears of its absence.

Expanding upon the success of Swiss Institute's ONE FOR ALL series, which offered emerging artists a first institutional exhibition in the US, *Disgorgers* is the first institutional exhibition of Cooper Jacoby's work in Switzerland.

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**Venue**

LUMA Westbau, Löwenbräukunst  
Limmatstrasse 270, 8005 Zurich, Switzerland  
[www.westbau.com](http://www.westbau.com)

**Opening Times**

11:00 – 18:00 Tue, Wed, Fri

11:00 – 20:00 Thur

10:00 – 17:00 Sat, Sun

Mondays closed

**Admission**

Free entry

**Press contacts:**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About Cooper Jacoby**

Cooper Jacoby (b. 1989, Princeton, New Jersey) lives and works in Los Angeles. Solo exhibitions include *Matte Wetter, 45cbm* at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden in 2016. Jacoby has participated in group shows at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen; and White Flag Projects, St. Louis.

### **About Swiss Institute**

Swiss Institute is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution in New York dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions and programs. During the reconstruction and refurbishment of Swiss Institute's new building in Manhattan's East Village, the institution is staging projects and exhibitions beyond a fixed gallery space and beyond its usual home in New York.

Swiss Institute programming is made possible in part with public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss arts council, the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Main sponsors include LUMA Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Friends of SI. Swiss Institute gratefully acknowledges its leading partner UBS, Stella Artois as benefactor, Swiss Re as public programs presenting sponsor, Vitra as design partner, Swiss as travel partner and UOVO fine art as relocation partner.

### **About LUMA Foundation**

The LUMA Foundation was established in 2004 in Switzerland to support the activities of artists, independent pioneers, and organizations working in the visual arts, photography, publishing, documentary filmmaking, and other media. The LUMA Foundation produces, supports, and enables challenging art projects committed to an expansive understanding of environmental issues, human rights, education, and culture.

The foundation's headquarters and exhibition spaces in Zurich are part of the refurbished and expanded Löwenbräukunst art complex. LUMA Westbau opened in 2013, presenting international projects, exhibitions and events commissioned and produced by the LUMA Foundation. [www.westbau.com](http://www.westbau.com)

In 2014, LUMA started the regeneration of the Parc des Ateliers, an expansive former industrial site located in Arles, France. Situated adjacent to the city's UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Parc des Ateliers serves as the major programmatic and cultural center for the LUMA Foundation's diverse activities. While the opening of the main building, designed by Frank Gehry, at the Parc des Ateliers is scheduled for 2019, an artistic program developed in collaboration with the LUMA Arles Core Group of artistic consultants - Maja Hoffmann, Tom Eccles, Liam Gillick, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Philippe Parreno, and Beatrix Ruf - is presented periodically in the already opened venues of La Grande Halle, Les Forges and La Mécanique Générale. More info [www.luma-arles.org](http://www.luma-arles.org).