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# EXHIBITION

## *Little ways down the road*

Sophie Conus

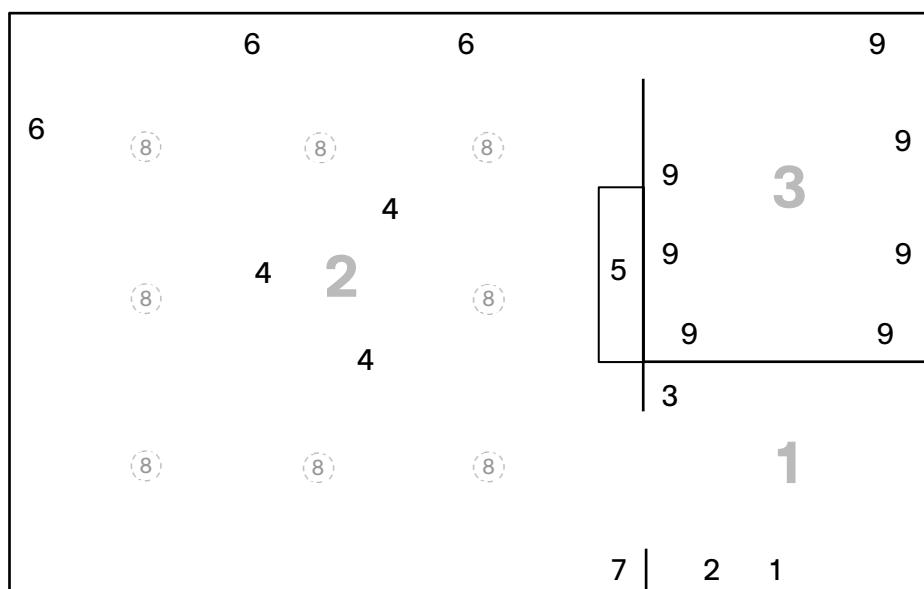
SALLE CROSNIER | PALAIS DE L'ATHÉNÉE

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Duration of the exhibition	From the 21 <sup>st</sup> of November until the 21 <sup>st</sup> of December 2024
Meeting with the artist	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> of December at 18:00
Closing Concert	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> of December at 18:30
Opening hours	Tuesday – Friday 15:00–19:00, Saturday 14:00 –18:00

Free Entry

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### Room 2

4. ***Bad Weeds***  
Steel, aluminum, 2024  
Gold bees  
(Society of the Arts archives, 1960)
5. ***In silence***  
Steel, aluminum, 2024
6. ***What comes out of a trinket bowl***  
Aluminium, 2024
7. ***Snail***  
Aluminium, 2024
8. ***Overgrowing***  
Light system, metal shavings, 2024

### Room 3

- 9 ***Attrape~Cœurs (Heart Catchers)***  
Ceramics, light system, 2024

### Room 1

1. ***Under the pavement, the Rage***  
Copper, 2024
2. ***Engravement of plants***  
Copper, (archive from the Société des Arts, 1850)
3. ***Street lamp***  
Plastic, light system, steel, 2024

## Biography

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1997, Sophie graduated from the Work.Master program at HEAD - Geneva in 2023. Through installations composed of sounds and sculptures she produces, Sophie Conus seeks to create singular, gritty universes that illustrate her fascination with materiality and specific ambiances such as nighttime. Vacillating between artificial and organic, these environments are set in tension by the contrasts of different materials and music.

Alongside her plastic and sound work, Sophie Conus is also part of LIMBO, an artist collective project, where artistic experimentation and critical reflection take place. LIMBO is currently in charge of curating Zabriskie, an art space and old tram stop waiting room located in the center of Geneva. Sophie Conus has exhibited her work at Halle Nord, Musée Arianna, Musée de Carouge Centre d'Art Contemporain, LiveInYourHead and Topic in Geneva. She has also participated in exhibitions at Kunsthhaus Langenthal, Kunst(Zeus)haus Rapperswil, Lausanne, Basel, Winterthur, Cari and Lugano in Switzerland, as well as Nice (FR), Berlin (DE), Copenhagen (DK), Monza and Turbigo (IT).

## Little ways down the road

In her exhibition Little ways down the road, Sophie Conus wanders the streets, drawn by the details that thread their way between the uniform structures of concrete and big windows, like a secret to be discovered in the crook of a sidewalk. A flower grows through a crack, as a sign of protest against this urban landscape where everything seems locked up, watched over, where every element is in its place, well-ordered. But these flowers, these recalcitrant weeds, persist and whisper their murmur of resistance to her.

Her gaze follows the cracked paths, clinging to the tiny plants spilling out onto the pavement, like so many signs of a nature that refuses to submit, that unfurls between the gaps. Sophie wanders in search of treasures. She picks up what she finds - a button, a forgotten key, a four leaf clover - and each object becomes precious in her hands. It's a childhood game that has become a ritual: she gleans to keep in memory these treasures that embody a gentle rebellion, a strong fragility.

Back in her studio, the artist transforms these gathered pieces into large organic forms that blossom, enlarged and multiplied multiplied, such as metal and stone flowers growing on architectural structures. She leaves the raw material visible, so that the viewer can read the story of a flower emerging from concrete. The artist now knows that even when they're ripped out, brambles come back, ready to spread where they weren't welcome. She feels the strength of what she has in her hands, a strength that no longer fears dark corners, ready to confront this standardized landscape that recoils in the face of insubordinate detail.

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## Under the pavement the Rage

I walk through the city  
the windows are dirty mirrors  
they reflect my image in pieces  
The concrete crushes  
the facades swallow the sky

The night covers the streets  
the street lamps count my steps  
their lights bang my shadow against the walls

My gaze runs  
along the cracks  
cutting into the sidewalk  
I sometimes cling  
to the escaping weed

The bad weed opens up  
it overflows  
without permission  
tiny, tenacious

It pierces the ordinance  
The walls ignore it  
the walls bury it

But it comes back  
it takes the cracks, it asks for nothing

A murmur of resistance  
under the paving stones  
The Rage

## **The space: Salle Crosnier, Palace of Athénée, Geneva**

The Salle Crosnier is a place of necessity and revelation. This special space offers young artists the opportunity to present a solo exhibition in a recognized institutional context. Originally created to showcase the work of art school students, the Salle Crosnier has been a fixture on Geneva's contemporary art scene since 1970, organizing regular exhibitions of young artists.

The Société des Arts is keen to mark an important moment in their careers, by offering them a special space steeped in history to design a monographic exhibition involving considerable scenographic reflection. The artists are given carte blanche to take over the Salle Crosnier in an original way, transforming it into a space in transformation. Each proposal is accompanied by the publication of a Cahier d'artiste (Artistic Journal).

**Further information: <https://societedesarts.ch/evenement/sophie-conus-ensemble/>**