



Johanna Kotlaris

HARRUMPH

In spring this year Johanna produced three audio pieces that playfully reinterpret a selection of songs on love stories: Dilemma by Kelly Rowland and Nelly, ABC Café from Les Misérables, and Jolene by Dolly Parton. Whilst balancing on the line between tribute and infringement, the music and texts intend to elaborate on the idea of the self as part of a continuum: a sensual encounter with the world around us.

During her virtual residency at STUDIO 47 she will expand this series of audio works. In a process oriented approach she will clear her throat – harrumph – so to share parts of her ongoing research towards a deeper understanding of the concepts of presence, dislocation and dissolution. Through voice, melody and language she investigates the contemporary condition of the human body, the way we understand and navigate it in space, and parallelisms or discrepancies between space, psyche and body.



Johanna Kotlaris (1988, CH) is based in Rotterdam and Zürich. She holds a BA Graphic Design from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and is currently completing her MA Fine Art at the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. Her practice comprises photography, video, installation, sculpture, performance and sound. Her work has been shown at National Gallery of Art Vilnius, Museo d'Arte della Svizzera Italiana Lugano, Dienstgebäude Zürich, Kunsthaus Langenthal, The New Gallery Calgary, Stadtgalerie Bern, Schwarzwaldallee Basel, Castrum Peregrini Amsterdam and more. In 2013 she was awarded with the Gerrit Rietveld Academie Award, the Young Photography Talent Fellowship by Pro Helvetia in 2014, the Patronage Fund for young Swiss artists by Basler Kunstverein in 2017 and was shortlisted for the Migros Ticino Artistic Creation Award and the VFG Young Swiss Talent Award in 2016.

“Open your lips; don’t open them simply. I don’t open them simply. We – you/I – are neither open nor closed. We never separate simply: a single word cannot be pronounced, produced, uttered by our mouths. Between our lips, yours and mine, several voices, several ways of speaking resound endlessly, back and forth. One is never separable from the other. You/I: we are always several at once. And how could one dominate the other? Impose her voice, her tone, her meaning? One cannot be distinguished from the other; which does not mean that they are indistinct. You don’t understand a thing? No more than they understand you.” Luce Iregaray, *When Our Lips Speak Together*

<http://johannakotlaris.com/>