

MUDAM

Artist residency

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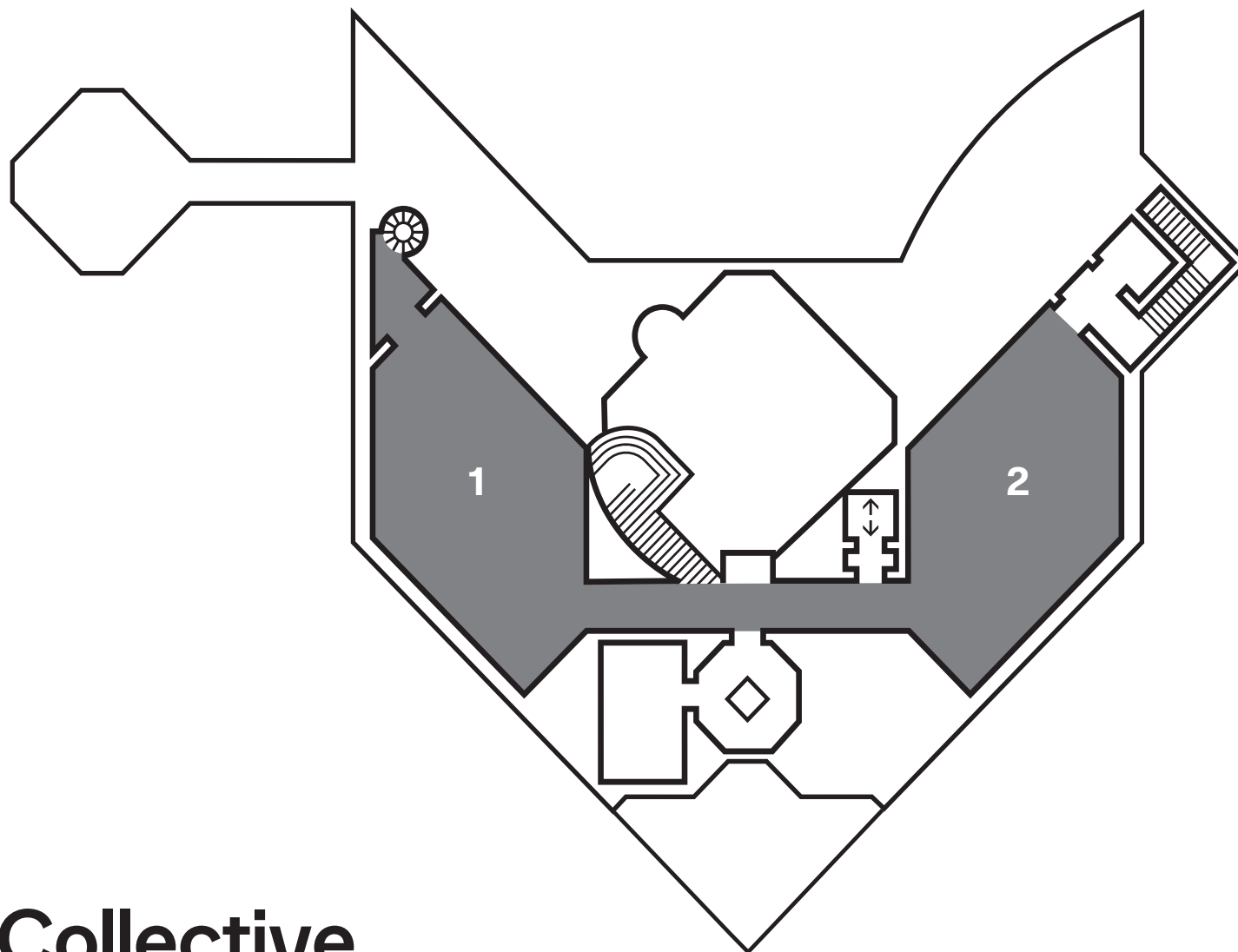


The Collective Laboratory

27.11.2023 — 14.01.2024

mudam.com

MUDAM



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27.11.2023 — 14.01.2024

Curators

Line Ajan and Clémentine Proby,
assisted by Tess Mazuet and Jade Saber

Level +1

1. East Gallery
2. West Gallery

The exhibition

Mudam presents *The Collective Laboratory*, an experimental project that unfolds in Mudam's first-floor galleries, turning them into a residency space. Six independent publishing and performance collectives based in different European cities are taking over the empty galleries during seven weeks.

This project draws on the long history of artists working collaboratively to share skills, knowledge and ideas, to achieve a common project. Throughout the Middle Ages until the Renaissance, guilds involved artists and artisans working together to produce artefacts, often dismissing individual authorship. In the twentieth century, the formation of collectives became a political and creative project *per se*, with avant-garde groups such as the Dadaists and the constructivists, who were eager to challenge the myth of the solitary genius artist. These alternative methods of creating art continued throughout the turn of this century and extended to curatorial and publishing practices.

The Collective Laboratory takes place at a time when artists are increasingly turning to collaborative approaches as necessary ways to rethink, reshuffle and at times circumvent institutional models and methodologies. *The Collective Laboratory* aims to support emerging collectives by providing them with the infrastructural, financial and material resources they often don't have access to, while also sharing their approach to reimagine how institutional spaces and resources are used. *The Collective Laboratory* also presents a concrete response to the scarcity of spaces available for artist residencies and studios globally and in Luxembourg in particular.

In line with curator and art historian Clémentine Deliss's notion of the 'metabolic museum', *The Collective*

Laboratory intends to temporarily subvert the static function of the gallery as an exhibition space, transforming it into a lively place dedicated to artistic production. The East Gallery, allocated to collectives working with performance, becomes a dynamic space for open rehearsals and other happenings. The collective **gobyfish** turns the gallery into a food laboratory, experimenting with ancient preservation practices, while **crème soleil** adapts an existing dance piece to the museum context. **OMSK Social Club** develops a fictional world in which Mudam's visitors are invited to immerse themselves.

Simultaneously, the West Gallery hosts the behind-the-scenes and often invisible activities of independent and editorial work (research, writing, translation, collective readings), allowing publishing to enter in dialogue with other disciplines. **moilesautresart** conducts research for their next publication, dedicated to geological, virtual and metaphorical holes. The two collectives-in-residence that follow each explore the transition between their digital and analogue existence from distinct angles. **Mnemozine** invites the public to join performative events drawing on technological obsolescence, while **Éditions Burn~Août** aims to improve their online presence as a tool for the free dissemination of knowledge.

Both galleries are accessible during the museum's opening hours, allowing visitors to observe projects in the making, and gain access to the creative processes that lie behind the sleek appearance of a museum exhibition or event. The exhibition spaces will gradually transform as each collective settles for a two-week residency in the museum, occupying and activating the galleries with their work in progress and leaving behind traces of their passage – eventually leading to an open-ended exhibition.

The residency period is punctuated by workshops conceived in close dialogue with Mudam's Publics department, as well as public presentations of the collectives' work through performances, experimental food tastings, readings or listening sessions. *The Collective Laboratory's* unique format gives the collectives the opportunity for a 'dress rehearsal', allowing them to test their ideas on and with the visitors of the museum, while offering Mudam's audiences the occasion to witness the multitudes contained in the processes of artistic production.

The collectives

crème soleil
(Paris)

Éditions Burn~Août
(Marseille, Paris, Lyon)

gobyfish
(London)

Mnemozine
(Luxembourg)

moilesautresart
(Brussels)

OMSK Social Club
(Berlin)

gobyfish

Residency period:
27.11 — 10.12.2023, East gallery

Public event:
Saturday, 9 December 2023, 16h00

Founded in 2019 by artists Fenella Brereton and Maia Magoga and joined by third member Alia Hamaoui in 2022, **gobyfish** is an all womxn artist-cooking collective based in London. Using food as material and a metaphor, they create edible installations and organise experimental dinners. Conceptually addressing environmental issues, their projects also foreground ecological awareness as a methodology by using seasonal, local and wild produce. Centering hospitality and generating conviviality, these formats allow gobyfish to instigate conversations – including among their events' attendees – about sustainable approaches to food, and on the importance of cooking in intercultural and intergenerational transmissions.

The first collective-in-residence in Mudam's East gallery during the transition from autumn to winter, gobyfish is developing a project that draws on the slower pace of nature during the winter solstice and explores the liminal space between life and decay. gobyfish focuses on traditional food preservation techniques using natural materials like wax, clay and ash. They draw on ancient processes such as the Greek/Aegean Alisiva (otherwise known as ash water or lye), as well as the Chinese tradition of century eggs, along with more familiar approaches such as curing, drawing and burying. These ingenious processes, extending the life of products and dramatically reducing food waste, will be magnified by gobyfish so as to render them performative, gestural and sculptural.

Ash, the material starting point of their residency, illustrates the ambivalence of this transitional season: it evokes traces and remnants. However, given its incredibly fertile nature, perfect for growing crops, ash also heralds spring fertility, providing metaphorical and concrete means for rebirth and

regeneration. Partially burnt and collected by gobyfish prior to their arrival at Mudam, and partially prepared on-site in the fire pit installed in Park Dräi Eechelen, ash symbolises the meeting point between life and death, the material and the spiritual, the past and what is yet to come.

Transforming the gallery into a culinary tasting room and gathering place, gobyfish will also be hosting two workshops to share research, explore materiality and practice ritual techniques. Their final presentation will take the form of a public event on Saturday 9 December and will unfold as a performative 'ceremonial unwrapping' and tasting of the preserved and cured foods that will have been developed throughout the residency, in collaboration with moilesautresart collective, in simultaneous residence in Mudam's West Gallery.



gobyfish,
Amphora, 2022
Photo: Yota Kitade Studio

moilesautresart

Residency period:
27.11 — 10.12.2023, West Gallery

Public event:
Saturday, 9 December 2023, 16h00

Founded in 2017 by Beth Gordon, Cathie Bagoris and Lila Rétif, **moilesautresart** is an interdisciplinary collective based in Brussels whose work astutely connects writing and publishing to furniture designing, as well as performative and discursive practices. Their hybrid projects allow the collective to playfully reflect on the construction and transmission of knowledge from a feminist perspective and with an ecocentric approach.

Bringing together research documents, autobiographical and poetic texts, their ongoing publication series *éditions.psd* exemplifies this interest in forging alternative and quirky narratives around the life of plants, animals and objects. Resolutely turned towards a decompartmentalisation of knowledge, these publications combine disciplines as varied as botany, ethnography, history, art history, philosophy and literature, with hints of fiction and pop culture. For *The Collective Laboratory*, moilesautresart have magnified and spatialised the four published issues of *éditions.psd*, by designing motifs evoking the content, characters and themes of the publications silkscreen-printed onto decorative screens, which were produced as part of an earlier residency at the Frans Masereel Centrum in Kasterlee.

moilesautresart's residency at Mudam will be dedicated to researching the central theme of *éditions.psd*'s upcoming issue centred around holes as liminal spaces in both the natural and virtual realms. From geological holes in the Luxembourgish landscape to digital rabbit holes that suck our attention on the internet, moilesautresart's research connects the scientific to the whimsical. As part of their residency, moilesautresart will host workshops for children that will explore the magic of holes through speculative and artistic inquiries that will end with a giant collective drawing.

The project developed by moilesautresart is co-produced with the Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee.

For their public presentation, taking place on Saturday, 9 December, moilesautresart will collaborate with gobyfish through readings and object-making which will punctuate the tasting event.



moilesautresart
Filhe-s de polypropylène bleu, 2021

crème soleil

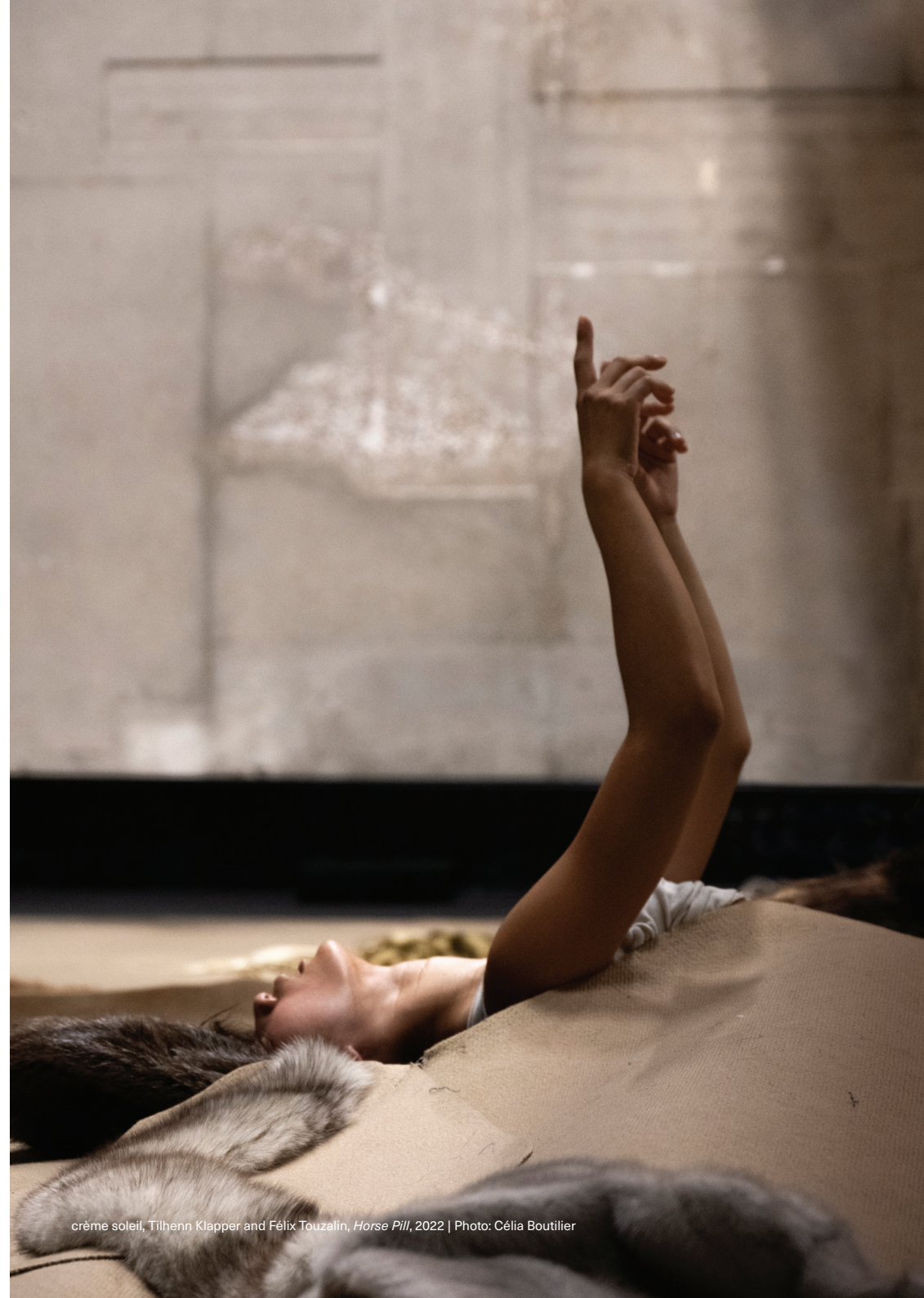
Residency period:
11 — 23.12.2023, East gallery

Public event:
Wednesday, 20 December 2023, 19h00

crème soleil is a collective formed in Paris in 2021 by choreographers, dancers and visual artists Tilhenn Klapper, Félix Touzalin and Anaïs Barras. Trained by dancer Emmanuelle Huynh and grounded in postmodern and contemporary dance traditions such as non-dance, crème soleil's work is characterised by an experimental approach that links choreography with voice, music, the creation and manipulation of art objects, and interaction with the audience, to evoke past, imagined or fantasised realities.

Throughout their residency at Mudam, crème soleil's central project consists of adapting an existing performance titled *Horse Pill* (2022) (originally created for live arts theatre and notably presented at La Briqueterie – Centre de Développement Chorégraphique National du Val-de-Marne, in France) to a museum context. Adapting to the institution's white walls, technical constraints and audience flows, crème soleil uses the gallery as an open rehearsal space and a studio to refine their stage props. Later on, the gallery will turn into an actual performance stage.

Combining dance, music, theatre and visual arts, *Horse Pill* revisits the stories and myths around the gold rush and parodies the archetypes of territorial conquest, casting a critical eye on its social and ecological impacts. Mimicking cowboys and other conquering figures of the West, the five characters summon the ghosts of dead animals who share the stage with them. The performers substitute the traditionally violent quest for power and control over land, the living, and the dead, for an attitude of care towards them. Playing on the idiomatic French expression 'remède de cheval', the performance proposes a 'horse pill' to remedy a painful history of violence. Their final presentation, taking place on Wednesday, 20 December, is a public performance of the readapted version of *Horse Pill*.



crème soleil, Tilhenn Klapper and Félix Touzalin, *Horse Pill*, 2022 | Photo: Célia Boutillier

Mnemozine

Residency period:
11 — 23.12.2023, West Gallery

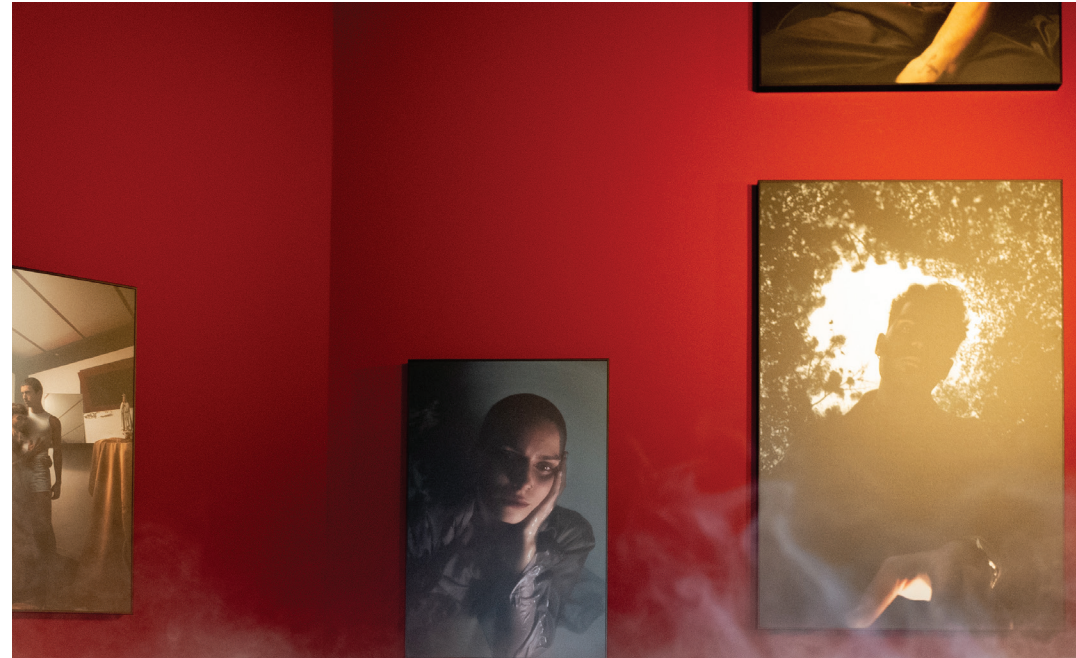
Public event:
Saturday, 16 December 2023, 15h00

Mnemozine is an interdisciplinary research and art collective based in Luxembourg and formed by Mathieu Buchler, Claire Buchler, Max Gindt, Christophe Rippinger, Lynn Klemmer, Nadina Faljić and Charles Rouleau. It brings together musicians, artists, curators and cultural workers and defines itself as a platform for experiments in philosophy, sociology and contemporary art practice. Merging cultural mediation and critical inquiry, Mnemozine interacts with its social environment by means of print publications, online content, collaborations and public interventions. Its purpose is to highlight the close links between theoretical reflection, creative practice and the exchange of ideas in the face of a rapidly changing reality.

As a collective who has mainly published online, Mnemozine is dedicating their residency to the transition from digital to analog media broadly, and online to printed editions specifically. With the aim of adapting its hitherto online zine to a printed format, the collective also takes a critical look at its own desire to materialise in a moment of increased digitalisation: is this endeavour emanating simply from nostalgia or from a sociopolitical and economic form of resistance?

Wishing to study the notion of technological obsolescence from a multitude of perspectives, the collective will bring in a number of instruments and tools (televisions, VHS, camcorders, CCTV cameras and audio effects interfaces and samplers) that will be placed in and around a 'conversation pit' set-up by the collective in the gallery, which will be the center of their interactions and experiments with the public. An architectural feature from the mid-twentieth century, the conversation pit is intended to create encounters and foster dialogue. Through moments of collective listening, brainstorming, viewing and writing, the members seek to form a

rhizomatic network of experimentation. For their public event, on Saturday 16 December, Mnemozine invites Mudam's audience for a durational listening session held in the gallery.



Mnemozine
Sticky Flames, 2021
Photo: Sven Becker

OMSK Social Club

Residency period:
02—14.01.2024, East Gallery

Public event:
Saturday, 13 January 2024, 10h00

OMSK Social Club is a Berlin-based collective founded in 2016. Their immersive practice focuses on world-building, as well as the creation of shared experiences and speculative fictions. Through installations, photographs, films and games, the collective devises alternative modes of perception and encounter, ranging from traditional observation to more active durational experiences, which they call Real Game Plays (RGP). These living installations weave virtual personas, pop cultural and political phenomena into dematerialised hybrids of contemporary culture and the participants' personal interpretations.

As part of *The Collective Laboratory*, OMSK Social Club will expand on the work *T(())mb* (2023) initially commissioned by Kunstraum Niederösterreich in Vienna. Informed by Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy of language, of speculative fiction, as well as of improvisational storytelling, *T(())mb* is an immersive project that combines performance, visual arts and roleplaying and creates a fictional world that feels at once historical, futuristic and artificial. Eerily familiar yet governed by a set of peculiar rules, this realm blurs the boundaries between reality and fiction in order to question how languages shape our consciousness, perception and knowledge – sometimes predating our existence. The intricate complexities of *T(())mb* are best revealed in the eponymous film presented in the gallery, in which the viewer is introduced to the characters that populate this world, played by members of OMSK Social Club when engaged in Real Game Play.

The collective's residency at Mudam unfolds in two stages. First, they expand and deepen their research and collective writing around the language they developed as part of *T(())mb*'s first iteration. The second phase is fully immersive, each of the members embodying their character within a tightly scheduled communal

life, allowing for momentary interactions with the audience on the occasions of workshops with babies and their carers, or the general public; building on and mutating the findings of the group through moments of mediation. Their residency will culminate on Saturday 13 January with a series of workshops introducing Role-Playing as a narrative experience to the audience at Mudam.

The work *T(())mb*, by OMSK Social Club, was originally commissioned by Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Vienna, 2023.



OMSK Social Club,
Dead Air, 2018
Courtesy of Player Robyn aka Sylvia Rybak

Éditions Burn~Août

Residency period:
02 — 14.01.2024, West Gallery

Public event:
Saturday, 13 January 2024, 15h00

Named after a wordplay combining the month of August ('août' in French) and the notion of 'burn-out', **Éditions Burn~Août** is a non-profit publishing house founded in 2018 in response to the attempted suicide of a student and fellow activist from the union 'Syndicat Solidaire' who set himself on fire in Lyon. Their first book, *De la misère en milieu étudiant* [Of student misery] included the letter explaining the reasons for his act, the response from the Dean of the University, as well as a text written by Mustapha Khayati and Guy Debord in 1966. Resolutely political and drawing on a cross-disciplinary perspective on editorial practices, the collective defines itself as a platform and a tool for disseminating thoughts and ideas. It publishes, republishes and translates books, zines, pamphlets and posters each produced in response to a social urgency and all disseminated free of charge. The aim of the publishing house is less to make books as to generate interaction. The book is not the finished form, nor the final process of thought, but rather the intermediary.

During their residency at Mudam, Éditions Burn~Août will be focusing on the link between their print production and its online existence, continuing their reflection on questions of distribution across different media, and the way in which their editorial work can be transposed digitally in a more permanent way. Building on their research around Creative Commons licenses, which constitute a framework for the free distribution of texts, they link their findings to reflections around their own website, which they envision as an actual artistic tool for dissemination. At Mudam, they will host a series of workshops around publishing practices and will expand on the work realised during the residency on the occasion of their public event, on Saturday, 13 January.



Public programme

04.12.2023 | 10h00 – 11h00 +
11h00 – 12h00 | For schools (Cycle 1-2)
Un monde imaginaire !
Workshop by moilesautresart

04.12.23 | 14h00 – 16h00
Shedding Light Through Dough:
Edible Votive
Workshop by gobyfish in collaboration
with Singa Luxembourg

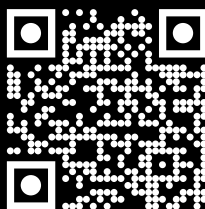
06.12.2023 | 19h00 – 21h00 | Open to all
Resurrecting Flavours: Ash & Wax
Preservation workshop
Workshop by gobyfish

13.12.2023 | 18h30 – 20h00 | Open to all
14.12.2023 | 10h00 – 11h30 | For
highschools
Tape Heads
Workshop by Mnemozine

04.01.2024 | 10h00 – 12h00 | Age 9-12
14h30 – 16h30 | Age 6-8
My first Zine
Workshop by Éditions Burn~Août

06.01.2024 | 10h00 – 12h00 | Open to all
Collective translation workshop
Workshop by Éditions Burn~Août

11.01.2024 | 11h00 – 12h00 | For babies
and caregivers
Nascent Words
Workshop by OMSK Social Club



Full programme on
mudam.com

Pascal Aubert, Sarah Beaumont,
Emma Bervard, Sandra Biwer, Geoffroy
Braibant, David Celli, Michelle Cotton,
Minh-Khan Dinh, Diane Durinck,
Zuzana Fabianova, Clarisse Fahrtmann,
Marie-Noëlle Farcy, Sylvie Fasbinder,
Paula Fernandes, Laurence Le Gal,
Christophe Gallois, Jordan Gerber,
Martine Glod, Richard Goedert, Vere Van
Gool, Thierry Gratien, Christine Henry,
Juliette Hesse, Camille d'Huart, Julie
Jephos, Germain Kerschen, Clara Kremer,
Deborah Lambolez, Vanessa Lecomte,
Nathalie Lesure, Carine Lilliu, Ioanna
Madenoglu, Frédéric Maraud, Tawfik
Matine El Din, Tess Mazuet,
António Mendes, Max Mertens, Laura
Mescolini, Mélanie Meyer, Clément
Minighetti, Barbara Neiseler, Carlotta
Pierleoni, Markus Pilgram, Inès
Planchenault, Clémentine Proby, Boris
Reiland, Susana Rodrigues, Jade Saber,
Alexandre Sequeira, Elodie Simonian,
Lourindo Soares, Bettina Steinbrügge,
Cathy Thill, Aurélien Thomas, Joel
Valabrega, Sam Wirtz and Ana Wiscour.

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Cover:
crème soleil, Tilhenn Klapper and Félix Touzalin, *Horse Pill*, 2022
Photo: Célia Boutilier

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