

charly ciarla

portfolio 2024

selected works

and the insight of the first try to include my
very latest concerns and out of that the repositioning of myself and reflecting on the works already made.

charli ciarla

based in lucerne & basel

i am an artist

i am an activist

i am a daughter

i am a feminist

i am a friend

i am a care taker

i am queer

i am a hard worker

i grew up with two cultures

i am both and more

i am a fan of art

i appreciate diversity

i am sensitive

i am soft

i take responsibility

i am an artist

i am learning

i am Charli

i am curious

i am sad sometimes

i am a human

i am an artist

i am sensitive

I am not alone

I am learning

I am scared sometimes

I could not be here without you

I is not existing without you

I am an artist

I am learning

I am so grateful

I am so sorry sometimes

I am nothing without you

I don't know where it goes

I am curious

I am not alone

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i am a curator

thank you I am not alone

This work, like my practice, does not exist in isolation. It is shaped by the dialogues, support, and inspiration of many people and entities who continue to influence my path.

To those who have shared their stories and ideas with me, who have shown me the importance of listening, and who have reminded me of my strength – thank you. Your words and actions have been the foundation of this journey.

To my collaborators and fellow artists, who have been both my mirrors and my guides—thank you for your patience, for your trust, and for your courage to co-create. The works I present are not only mine but ours, woven together through our shared vulnerability and vision.

To the thinkers whose ideas have challenged and inspired me: Donna Haraway, Emilia Roig, Sara Ahmed, and many others. Your insights have been my compass, helping me navigate the delicate interplay between self and world.

To the non-human networks that sustain me – the trees, the soil, the water, and the spaces I call home – thank you for providing me with a sense of belonging and refuge. These connections, often invisible yet deeply felt, remind me of the interdependence of all life. They are a constant source of renewal and grounding, and they have shaped

both my art and my understanding of the world.

To the privilege of having a safe place to return to, and the opportunity to reflect, heal, and create. I acknowledge the comforts and support that have allowed me to focus on my practice, and I do not take them for granted.

To the love I received from my family and my dearest friends, whose presence has always been my foundation. And to the conversations – whether with friends, mentors, or therapists – that have helped me navigate the complexities of being both an artist and a human. These exchanges have given me the clarity and courage to move forward, even in moments of uncertainty.

This is not a final version, but a beginning. These acknowledgements are my first steps towards recognizing the many hands and hearts that shape this practice. It is a work in progress, as is the path I walk.

(To every work acknowledgment should will take space in my portfolio. For now I start with giving some of the works a page before the documentation, yet I don't know if that is the „right“ way to include my ethical concerns, but it's my starting point.

I am not alone
„my artistic practice is a living dialogue – a constant oscillation between tradition and transformation, between the individual and the network. It seeks spaces of encounter, where not only humans but also ideas, stories, and entities are co-creators. I find myself in a deliberate transformation: art, to me, is not a solitary act but a circulating exchange – a practice of connection and adaptation to what surrounds us.“

In my artistic research I am interested in human processes, life concepts, culture - especially the fine layers of it & the diversity of the human beingness with its different prerequisites.

I work with video, installation, sound & performance. art mediation takes part in my practice as well.



divine demons

videoprojection/silent movie on the waterfall of
the „mühlenenschlucht“, st. gallen

Acknowledgement:

For the courage of the women who were forced
out and erased from history, your voices are
honored in this piece.

To Morena Barra, my collaborator, whose vision
and dedication turned this work into a true
act of reclamation.

To the Mühlenenschlucht itself, for offering
its silence as a witness to the past, and to
the natural elements that shaped the space of
resistance and refuge.

To Claude Bühler for giving their sound to the
silent voices.

divine demons

videoprojection/silent movie on the waterfall of the „mühlenenschlucht“, st. gallen

once, according to legend, two women bathed here at the „mühlenenschlucht“, driven out by missionaries and banished as ‘devils in female form’. the video work divine demons sees itself as a reappropriation of the mühlenenschlucht and the history of these women and their pagan people. the work by charli ciarla and morena barra gives them a voice, changes the perspective on the events and explores the gorge as a place of refuge and resistance.

the work was created site-specifically, and has so far been shown only once during the audiovisual susurrus festival. however, a further work that is detached from the location is planned.

[documentation with sound](#)

www.susurrus.ch







photos: documentation by Laurin Bleiker during the festival susurru

Acknowledgement:

This work owes its existence to the people of Fivizzano, whose stories about letting go touched and inspired me.

This piece would not have been possible without the objects left behind in abandoned places, which speak volumes about both the personal and collective history of this village. To the land and the community who carry these histories – I thank you for your silent resilience.

I am deeply grateful for my time at Residenza la Ma, where I had the privilege to connect with the land, the people, and the culture of Fivizzano.

A special thank you to Natascha Moschini, Samira Gollin, and Lea Luzifer, who were my spiritual support during this challenging time. Your presence, insight, and camaraderie gave me strength, and our shared moments of reflection shaped this work profoundly.

non è semplice

found objects, audio

I also wish to thank Caspar Danuser for his appreciation of this work and for providing the opportunity to present it in the perfect context during the Océan et Ciel exhibition in Fribourg. His belief in the work gave me the courage to continue with believing in my work.



non è semplice

found objects, audio

during a two-month residency, ciarla researched the topic of letting go in the pre-alpine village of fivizzano. this has been examined at various levels. the topic arose from interviews with people from this area. fivizzano is a classic village in the foothills of the alps, it seems partly abandoned. It is partly left behind for political reasons but also simply for economic reasons, in order to study in the city or because there is work there.

ciarla went filming in all the abandoned places found. from every place she took two objects that someone left there with her. ciarla continued speaking to people about the topic letting go in life and recorded the interviews. five objects and a cut of the audios became the first work in the fivizzano series.

photo: view of exhibition in the bella gallery



photos: view of exhibition at océan et ciel



wichtig, um loslassen zu können.



photos: view of exhibition at all inclusive festival, with subtitles

bathroom orchestra

artistic sound & video research about the political & social
concept of the bathroom

Acknowledgement:

will follow

bathroom orchestra

artistic sound & video research about the political & social concept of the bathroom

charli ciarla and liz Kleiner spent two weeks investigating the bathroom, the culture, the sociological and, in a broader sense, the political issues surrounding it. it was always looked on from a queer feminist perspective. the artist exchanged a lot with people on the subject, recorded, made sound, investigated with a camera, empirically, in dialogue and then managed, connected, layered and exposed what they had been found out. It is not equally natural for everyone to be able to use a bathroom without obstacles, for a variety of reasons. this aspect was constantly and repeatedly present during the process.

On the exposition day a performance in the bathroom of the zimmermannhaus was presented. In this kleiner and ciarla worked with the collected video material, played and layered sound that they had collected in the bathroom, they used the space of the bathroom and adopted rituals that became part of the event.

a part of that there was also created a work entitled „any situation aid“. the installation contains several sachets placed by the paper dispenser, in these sachets are placed remedies for many imaginable emergency situations in the bathroom or empty sachets into which people can fill something to help someone else.

the work is partly completed and partly still in progress. a continuation is to be expected.





photos: insights taken before and during the performance
photos following two pages: : two of various compositions of the videos during the performance











photo u.l. : view of installation „any situation aid“

photo d.r. : view of an experiment of new genderless sign for the bathroom



Acknowledgement:

This work has been evolving for over a year, teaching me to persist. It is not solely mine but the outcome of collaborative efforts and the support of those who shared their wisdom and insights with me.

My deepest thanks to my mentors for their support and guidance: Christof Steiner, Martian Mächler, Anina Schenker and my Kolloquium group. Their belief in the work has been essential to its development.

A special thank you to Caspar for supporting me to reconsider the form this work could take, to Yasmina Afshar and Anina Schenker for giving me inspirations of other artist such as Janet Cardiff and Delphine Chapuis Schmitz.

The sounds from the violoncello, the flute and the synth were most important to invent the first part of this work. Thank you Alex Danuser, Elide Sulsenti, Ksenja Franeta for forming

rooms & mermaids tails

-please take off your shoes-

sound & spoken word performance

this first performance together.

Without the sea, this work would not exist. Its mysteries, its guidance, the hope it radiates, and the imagination it stirs within me are all woven into this piece. The reverence and symbolism of the ocean have often been the forces that kept me afloat, guiding my thoughts and inspiring my creativity. Without the sea, much of this journey would not have been possible. I am endlessly grateful for its presence and the way it continues to shape my work and my understanding of the world.



rooms & mermaids tails

-please take off your shoes-

sound & spoken word performance

'...bad words, in black and chrome, simply painted on the wall. chrome. cold. cool. there are more of rooms, is this a darkroom? -please don't hurt me. But come in. I almost can't hear you anymore... '

with violoncello, flute, synth and poetry, new spaces are explored, we talk about being human, about being healthy - not always the same - and not always healthy in the same way. come, come in, listen, come, come, but please take off your shoes.

this work has its starting point as a collaboration with musicians and artistst. elide sulsenti on cello, ksenija franeta on flute, alex danuser on modular synth and charli ciarla on microphone, synth and and as director of the piece.

In the meantime, the piece has developed into a solo in which the music is explored as text, and yet it is still in process and will be shown in a new form during the „all inclusive festival“.

[video of performance](#)





photos: by katharina schilling, taken during performance at salon, villa bannwart

Acknowledgement:

not yet formulated, will follow.

halbhertz

sound/spoken word duo, established 2023, biel/bienne (ch)



halbhertz

sound/spoken word duo, established 2023, biel/bienne (ch)

marc machete (marc nieder) who studied literary writing at the swiss literature institute and charly overkill (charli ciarla) form together «halbhertz», a project dedicated to bringing together language, sound and synthesiser. poetic, rhythmic and melodic elements run through their live performances. They carefully explore states of being human, work with repetition and create a field of tension between strength and tenderness, calm and fury.

○ «mein Körper ist ein Haus»
[short insight of performance during sound days](#)

liminal spaces

performance and exhibition, 2023, gmünd (A)

Acknowledgement:

will follow soon.

liminal spaces

performance and exhibition, 2023, gmünd (A)

«liminal spaces» was a performance/ theater work that has been created during a seven days residency in gmünd austria. subetasch, the place where the artists work collectively is a theater, culture and exhibition space. during this seven days, the four invited artists worked with the theme of liminality. The topic was explored and discussed together, and spaces also repeatedly opened up in which each artist worked on the topic individually. In the end, the results were shown in a 40-minute performance that utilised liminal spaces around the cultural venue. There was also an exhibition in which both, finished works and processes found their place. This was deliberately kept liminal.

charli ciarla
eva talesia maspoli
laura jana luterbach
jasmin nina rolli



Acknowledgement:

For the residents of the Alp Care Centre, whose stories shaped this work. Their willingness to share their memories opened space for a reflection on belonging and the importance of visibility for those whose voices are often left unheard.

A very heartfelt thank you to my co creator Jasmin Rolli for the absolutely enriching exchange that gave the work the reflection sensibility that was so important.

Thanks to the Alp Care Centre to make such a work possible and for believing in the power of connection through art.

a special thanks to Sebastian Utzni for thinking critically with us and for your work to make the connection to the Alp Center and all this possible in the first place.

let me tell you - ech verzells eu

installation in public spaces 2023 in emmen (ch)



let me tell you - ech verzells eu

installation in public spaces 2023 in emmen (ch)

jasmin rolli and charli ciarla worked as a duo for a commission from the alp care centre. The focus was on the motto «putting age in the right light». the artists conducted interviews with four residents of the centre on the subject of living and growing up in emmen in the past and today. central to the work was the exchange and contact with the residents in order to make their voices visible through the work. key statements were extracted from the conversations and contextualised in relation to each other and specific places in emmen.

. oder? Jo, ec

riktig

riktig

riktig



Installation at «tramhüsli», emmenbrücke, gerliswilstrasse
photo last page: showcases at gerliswilstrasse



photo: installation at «coiffeur de paris», emmenbrücke gerliswilstrasse,
next page: nylon, gerliswilstrasse

Acknowledgement:

follows soon.

between door and door

video & sound installation, 2022, music days lucerne



photo: at show during the music days
following: stills of the mapping

between door and door

video & sound installation, 2022, music days lucerne

identities are changeable everything is transient and everything changes nothing stays as it is: that is process and that is progress. a door is a decision. either open or closed, inside or outside. not true: just as well you can open it again behind you, tear it open, blow it open. slam it, lock it or leave it open.

the installation consists of video clips of closing and opening doors. the matching sound was played by the musicians: isabel dietrich, with violin, and charlotte lorenz. the mapped video was projected onto a free-standing door in the black box of the university of music during the music days in june 2022 at the lucerne university of music.

[documentation at music days](#)



Acknowledgement:

Gratitude will be formulated soon.

home (working title)

-on repeat-

video performance, 2023, naples zurich more to come



home (working title)

-on repeat-

perfromative social sculpture, 2023, naples and zurich

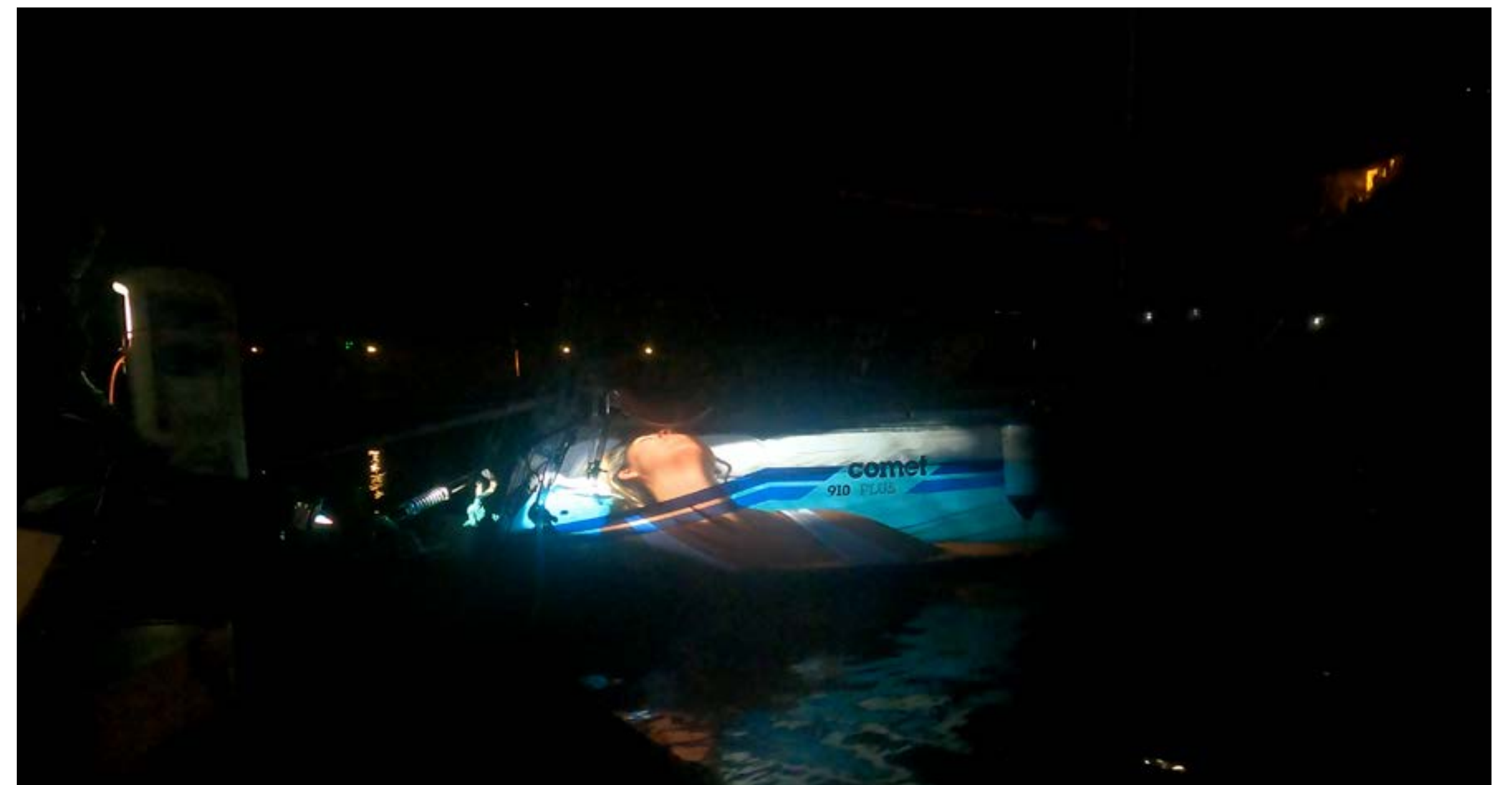
finding a home, being at home, never really being at home. ciarla is dealing with the meaning of home in her everyday life but also in this artistic research. She researched also empirically with own experiences.

so far the results are that there are so-called engrams which play a decisive role in the experience of a feeling of home. engrams are imprints in the brain that are created through the repetition of stimuli. routines and rituals are therefore crucial for a feeling of home.

clips of ciaras home and them in it doing their routines. her homeplace changed often the last four years. It was as only routines were a constant home. clips of this routines were projected on the outside walls of other people's homes, in zurich but also naples during a journey in a possible dream home of ciarla and where a part of her family lives. This work is the base for the diploma work and will further process.



on the courtyard of a neighbourhood, naples



on sergios houseboot, procida

liquid love

video installation

Acknowledgement:

To the water that carries all life, binding us with its constant flow. This work is a meditation on our interconnectedness, inspired by the silent, unending love that the water represents. And with the same breathe I want to thank the sea that carries me and us, always reminds me of my voice and to speak it.

Thanks for swimming in the water for me Lara, Cilio Minella, Noah and Jon

For the loving spirit of Lara Hauser that believed in me and offered me this great possibility at wipkingen open air to try out this work with all freedom.

To the bridge that held the work, the bridge that lets us go over the river and brings us close to the water.

liquid love

video installation

water is liquid unconditional love. It surrounds every body and everything equally.

video recordings of various floating bodies in the water of the sea were cut and layered into a video loop. this loop was projected on a bridge named amperesteg over the limmat at the wipkingen open-air in zurich, 2022.

[documentation installation](#)



photo: installation on the bridge
following photos: video stills of the video loop





Acknowledgement:

For the land and the plants that nurture life,
and for the dandelion, which symbolizes both
fragility and strength.

To the wonderful performing body and supporter
Noah Liechti, without you I would've been to
shy.

Thanks to the great visionary thinker and
biggest inspiration for this first plant porn:
Florianne Köchlin, your books were and are
still a great inspiration for point on life and
what really matters.

taraxa cum
post anthro porn 1



taraxa cum

post anthro porn 1

pollen everywhere, seeds in the air, prancing, falling, hopping on. the earth smells of earth, fertile earth, and it teems and crawls down there; it pulsates and vibrates, moist and shady down below, the blossoms and tips kiss the light.

in this video human and plant, more specifically the flower in dandelion, connect on an equal level. there is a young body (Noah Liechti) that performs sensual acts with the dandelion. The cut is ascending, as in an orgasm and in the sound one hears moaning and rustling. Green and human skin dominate the screen.

[the video](#)



photo: screening at «schleier und flügel» biel
following photos: 3 video stills



photos: stills of the video „taraxacum“

exhibitions & shows

2024	salon basel, villa bannwart	„rooms & mermaids tails“, sound & spoken-word performance
2024	susurrus audiovisuelle kunst am wasserfall, st. gallen	„divine demons“, video-projektion collab.: morena barra
2024	kunsthoch, emmen	„let me tell you - ech verzells der“ collab.: jasmin rolli
2024	océan et ciel, visarte fribourg	non è semplice
2024	lab in lab, zimmemannhaus	„bathroom orchestra“, sound performance
2024	all inclusive festival, emmen	perform. „rooms & mermaids tails“
	hslu, lucerne	„non è semplice“
2023	galerie bella, zürich	„non è semplice/fivizzano (nr. 1)“
2023	emmen gerliswilstrasse, Auftrag Betagtenzentrum Alp	„let me tell you - ech verzells der“ installation im öffentlichen raum reasearch & performance. liminal spaces collab. eva talesia maspoli, laura jana luterbach, jasmin rolli
2023	liminalität residenz, gmünd (A)	„mein körper ist ein haus“ mit halbhertz, sound & spoken word
2023	sounddays, kunstkola, langenthal	
2023	all inclusive festival, hslu, lucerne	taraxa cum, video
2022	kunst kiosk, kunstraum baden	„shadow of my love“, sculptures
2022	voiles schleier und segel, alte krone, biel/bienne	taraxa cum, video
2022	kunstschmiede residency, werk k kulturlokal baden	kuration der vernissage & performances“
2022	music days, blackbox school of music, lucerne	„from door to door“ video projektion
2022	final show nothing is lighter than light, hslu lucerne	„du bist anders als alles“, film
2022	open-air wipkingen	„liquid love“, video projection
2022	all inclusive festival, lucerne	„come inside“, installation

2021	house of transformation, zurich	„enter the light“; installation/event curation of the music acts
2020	festival „burn“, winterthur	„infinite space“, performance
2020	baustück, baden	„infinite space“, performance
2020	zentralwäscherei, zurich	„light bath“, installation curation of the performances

residencys

2023	subetasch, liminalität, austria	september 23
2023	la ma residenze, fivizzano, italy	april-may 23
2020/21	house of transformation, zurich	november 20 - february 21

art mediation projects

2022/23	intercultural exchange between art education teachers in georgia & switzerland, organised by art as foundation, in georgia & switzerland	october 22/february 23
2022	kunstschmiede residency organisation, WERKK baden	june 22

i am an artist

i am a friend

i am not sure where it goes

i am charli

I am not alone

i am a curator

i am sometimes sad

I am learning

I am scared sometimes

i am here

I could not be here without ...

i am a hard worker

I is not existing without you

i am loud

I am an artist

i am working on it

I am learning

i am a fan of art

I am so grateful

i want more

I am so sorry sometimes

i am sensitive

I am nothing without you

i am soft

I don't know where it goes

i take responsibility

I am curious

i am worried

I am not alone

i am working on it

I am sensitive

i am a sibling

I am taking responsibility

i am a feminist

i am working on it

i am learning

i am finding out

i am sensitive

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