

## Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron

Work as a multidisciplinary artist duo, they co-direct films (experimental documentary and fiction) and theater plays. Their main interest is to tell and illustrate stories in the reflection of the human condition in society and history.

*Mos Stellarium*, their first documentary that focuses on the lives of six young migrants, has been released as a film in cinemas and at international festivals and presented as a 4-channel video installation, co-representing Liechtenstein at the 2015 56th Venice Biennale.

Currently they are working on their short film series *Side Effects of Reality*, which oscillates between experimental documentation and fiction. They also make paintings from different film stills and work on different techniques of experimental photography to create a coherent illustration of different stories. The questioning and analysis of what an image is, is a central point of their artistic research.

They are also in pre-production of a location based virtual reality (VR) experience, *My Identity is this expanse*, planned for 2020 at Casino Luxembourg art center. This project is the prologue of a ten episodes VR series *Human Resources*, planned for 2021. They also develop a documentary. *The Living Witnesses* is about the Second World War and the populist and right-wing movements growing today all over Europe. The next exhibition is in March 2019 during the Month of Photography in Luxembourg.

Further information: [www.markiewicz-piron.com](http://www.markiewicz-piron.com)

## Marco Godinho

Born 1978 in Salvaterra de Magos, Portugal. Lives and works between Echternach, Luxembourg and Paris, France. He has been for a number of years now, sensitively tackling with a post-conceptual practice, the notions of exile, memory, and geography inspired by his own experience of nomadic life, suspended between different languages and cultures and nourished by literature and poetry. From installations and videos to drawings and collaborative pieces, his works form a map of a world shaped by personal experiences and multiculturalism.

Marco Godinho has been selected to represent the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg at the Biennale Arte 2019 – 58th International art exhibition in Venice.

Further information: [www.marcogodinho.com](http://www.marcogodinho.com)

## Kevin Muhlen

Born 1977 in Luxembourg. He is currently director of Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain. After studying in art history in Brussels and Strasbourg, he started to work at Casino Luxembourg in 2004. Between 2009 and 2015, he was artistic director of the institution.

In 2016, Kevin Muhlen initiated the renovation of Casino. The art centre's programme is mainly focused on solo shows by international artists. Besides the exhibitions at Casino he is also regularly invited as guest curator for projects abroad. In 2007 and 2017 he was curator of the Luxembourg pavilion at the Venice Biennale. He is a regular contributor to different catalogues and publications. Kevin Muhlen is also president of Luxembourg's public art commission.

### TheCube Project Space

2F, No. 13, Aly. 1, Lane 136, Sec. 4, Roosevelt Rd., Taipei

Wed. to Sun., 14:00-20:00 (closed on Mon. and Tues.)

### VT Artsalon

B1, No.17, Ln.56, Sec. 3, Xinsheng N. Rd, Taipei

Tues. to Fri., 11:30-19:00; Sat.,13:30-21:00 (closed on Sun. and Mon.)

Co-organizer | CASINO LUXEMBOURG Forum d'art contemporain 立方計劃空間 TheCube Project Space VARTSALON 非常藝術文空間

Sponsor | 國藝會 台北市文建會 國家文化藝術基金會

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\* TheCube Project Space is sponsored by National Culture and Arts Foundation, Department of Culture Affairs, Taipei City Government, RC Culture and Arts Foundation and Dr. Chen Po-Wen.



© Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron, *To not be Destroyed to Powder by the Powder and the Fist*, film still, 2018

# dust to dust: of myths and men

17th Nov. - 30th Dec., 2018

### Kevin Muhlen | curator

*Dust as a beginning and an end. Dust as primal matter and last remains. Dust as the past, the present and the future.*

*Dust as a dead layer of the passing of time.*

*Dust as lively particles suspended in the air. Dust as nothing, Dust as everything.*

In this exhibition three artists, the duo Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron, as well as Marco Godinho, explore our contemporary world and society through physical and mental recordings of the realms they encounter. Here the socio-political cohabitates with ancient mythology and philosophy, the factual reality meets the abstract and immaterial conceptions that have been populating human minds for centuries. Of course the stories created by this process become new myths, fictions of our reality and poems to the everyday.

Shifts of notions, but also loss and gain of meaning and comprehension through cultural or contextual displacements, disappearances – even destruction – are at the core of the exhibitions statement. Hence the artists are deliberately blurring the lines by progressively erasing parts of their narrative and fragmenting the structure to leave the viewers questioning the whole and filling in the gaps mentally.

The exhibition itself spreads over two exhibition spaces – TheCube Project Space and VT Artsalon – making it impossible for the public to grasp it's entirety without engaging in a physical movement through the city of Taipei. This migration of the public is an echo to the shifts provoked and questioned by the artists through the works in the exhibition itself.

It is in these trails of dust – gathered or spread – that the artists develop their concepts and write their stories of myths and men.

## Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron

dust to dust: of myths and men gives us an enormous opportunity to explore history and myths from two different points of view: Asian and European. It gives also the possibility to analyze the vitality of human kind in times of political hysteria, in times where interpretation or opinions are more relevant than what is factual. This residency and exhibition give us also the way to articulate factual history and creation of myths by men, today. Our artworks are linked to historical facts and stories and to political situations, yet we try to bring down the chaotic rumour which surrounds us all, to what marks past, contemporary and maybe future existence: tales and poetry by still and moving images in correlation with words and sounds.

### 1. Neon Thoughts

2016-ongoing, installation, photo

*Neon Thoughts* is a series of photographs showing luminous text in different forms of installation. The text in this series is always a quote, thereby in possession of a reference and a larger meaning. The location of the text is precisely chosen in such a way to contrast, contradict or diversify the quote. These works are temporary installations, not meant for long lasting exhibition and in their short lifespan reflect the metaphorical fragility of the works.

The quotes are referenced in the title of the work. These glowing letters are flashing up like passing thoughts. They are ideas that strike us with their deeper meaning, yet do not let us comprehend themselves completely.

These temporary installations are presented in form of photography. Their lifespan is restricted to the duration of the light-emitting reaction of the glow-sticks. Technically, they start to fade immediately after their activation. The slow process of fading out mirrors our own thoughts that often disappear faster than our mind can completely understand them.

The complete fading of the light may span over two to three days, so in rare cases, these installations can be shown directly in an exhibition space.

Similar to the video series *Side-Effects of Reality*, the works consist of a layering of picture and text. *Side-Effects of Reality* uses film as a visual basis and transforms the images through the narration of a story. It is the story that fills the otherwise documental pictures with a larger, metaphorical sense. The aim of these videos consist in transubstantiating the historic past into a myth. *Neon Thoughts* uses the same principle, where image and text form two sides, nourishing each other on an intellectual level.

For the exhibition there will two Neon Thoughts:

- *Hope raises no dust - Paul Eluard II Neon Thought.*
- *Watch my dust - George Herman Neon Thought.*

### 2. De Rerum Natura

2016, video

*De Rerum Natura* is the first episode of the *Side-Effects of Reality* series we have started in 2016. This first one is based on eponymous book of Lucretius. On images of Athens, two voices, a woman and a man have thoughts about life within history, thoughts about vitality.

Actors: Elisabeth Johannesdottir and Jules Werner

Written and directed: Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron

### 3. To not be Destroyed to Powder by the Powder and the Fist

2018, video

*To not be Destroyed to Powder by the Powder and the Fist* is the 10th episode of the *Side-Effects of Reality* series we have started in 2016. To a group of children, a man tells a story of war and civilization which is paved by creation and destruction, by the search for identity - it is his own story and the stories of these children, as well as all the others which will come after.

Actor-performer: Molin Wang

With the participation of: Elu Huang, Shou-En Yao, Fan-Shin Su, Roy Wang, Glenda Wang

Music: Kevin Muhlen

Written and directed: Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron

### 4. Here be Dragons

2018, video

*Here be Dragons* is the 8th episode of the *Side-Effects of Reality* series we have started in 2016. "Here be dragons" (HIC SUNT DRACONES) is an expression used by medieval navigators. It means dangerous or unexplored territories, in imitation of the practice of putting illustrations of dragons, sea monsters and other mythological creatures on uncharted areas of maps. In our story, the dragons are real and consist in both a threat and an opportunity. They are unknown territory, generating vast amounts of money (for the few adepts) but simultaneously can lead to a collapse of the system (for everybody). They are uncontrollable excrescences of the financial system similar to sub-primes or hedge funds, products that can produce high profits at considerable risk, and defy our common notions of work, labour and value. A young ambitious businesswoman claims a large amount of money from a wealthy bank employee after revealing her knowledge about the secret behind the bank's profits.

Actors: Jeanne Werner, Marja-Leena Junker with the participation of Gabriel Boisanté.

Music: Kevin Muhlen and Angelo Magini

Written and directed: Karolina Markiewicz and Pascal Piron

### 5. De Rerum Natura

2018, ink on paper

### 6. Here be Dragons

2018, ink on paper

### 7. Okopowa, Warszawa

2018, ink on paper

### 8. Catfish Effect

2018, ink on paper



Here be Dragons



Catfish Effect

## Marco Godinho

For the exhibition dust to dust: of myths and men, I propose a constellation of works, based on autonomous pieces, that together evoke a common spirit, that of questioning our life rituals, both physical and mental. Starting from my own intimate experiences with places or situations, each proposal opens to a form of universal thinking, through a process where disappearance, memory and geography connect personal time to the common history and where poetry plays a decisive role in trying to understand better our failed social policies and structures in which we live.

### 9. Every Day a Poem Disappears into the Universe

2018, installation

Also inspired by a ritual I observed in the streets of Taipei the first day after the full moon, where merchants make an offering in front of their door of food and burn conceptual money to thank the gods for the proper functioning of their business. I will send every morning during the duration of the exhibition a new poem to the director of the exhibition space. The poem will be printed and be visible all day long inside the exhibition, before being read in silence to the universe and burned outside at closing time.

### 10. Remember what is Missing (Taipei Air Force Base)

2018, installation, video

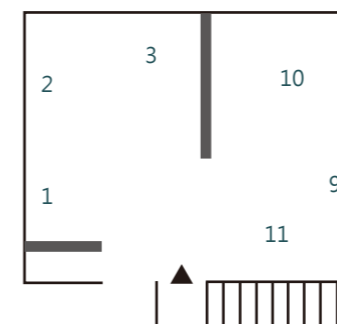
By visiting the former Taipei Air Force Base headquarters, I thought instinctively to reactivate my work *Remember what is missing* with consists of collecting dust since 2015 at various abandoned or in reconstruction places in the world. In the exhibition *dust to dust: of myths and men*, I present in one hand a video installation that consists in a monitor and a large projection. The work deals with the precise observation of the site, that leads to a perambulation in the buildings, collecting dust which in a second time is used in another installation where the sentence "Remember what is missing" is written in absence, directly on the floor of the exhibition space.



### 11. The Unknown in Suspense (Crystal Moon Blocks)

2018, installation

A pair of wooden moon blocks blank of questions to the gods are reproduced thrice and identically in crystal. The wooden moon blocks imported from Taipei for reproduction in Europe, change status back to Taipei, leaving the unknown in suspense. Originally moon blocks or Jiaobei blocks, are wooden divination tools originating from China, which are used in pairs and thrown to answer a yes or no question. Used in temples along with fortune sticks, both of which are often used together when requesting an answer from the gods, and the moon blocks sometimes are also used in home shrines.



TheCube Project Space

### 12. The Unknown in Suspense (Choreography)

2018, video

From video footage recorded in April 2018 in several temples in Taipei, I cropped and kept only the moment when the moon blocks are suspended before landing on the ground to give an answer to the questions asked to the gods. Using this process of fragmentation and reframing, the moon blocks seem alive, showing an invisible choreography, which leads to uncertainty when opening perspectives towards an infinite time, leaving the unknown in suspense.

### 13. Lunar Cycle (April 1 - 29, 2018) #1-29

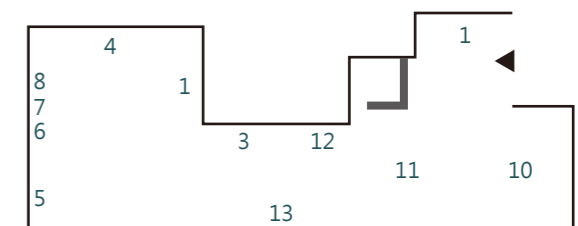
2018, installation, drawing

I arrived the day of full moon for my first time in Taipei (31 Mar. 2018) and started to collect the local newspaper for the month of April 2018. Then on the first pages of the newspaper, I drew with a black ballpoint pen each phase of the moon that correspond to the day of publication. By this superposition the information of the newspaper disappear little by little to leave visible only a few bits of text. The moon, a natural phenomenon capable of measuring time, symbolizing temporal repetition and the cyclical character, merges with the interrupted flow of daily events.

### 14. Forever Immigrant (Tattoo)

2018, performance

Having experienced this piece for years, that consists of a stamp marked with the words "Forever Immigrant" printed successively on the walls, to create extended forms that reminds those of clouds that make appear in the sky an atmosphere of mist. It raises the issue of immigration and its always uncertainty. Both words emphasize the not belonging to a territory. For the the exhibition *dust to dust: of myths and men* a local tattoo artist will tattoo the words "Forever Immigrant" on the body of the visiteurs who want to be forever part of the work on the day of the opening (November 17, 2018) for free.



VT Artsalon