

Press release

New Noveta
with Vindicatrix
Fateful
18 May–1 July 2018

Press meeting
Fri, 18 May 2018, 10 am

Opening
Fri, 18 May 2018, 7 pm

New Noveta is a collaboration between Keira Fox and Ellen Freed. Their multi-disciplinary practice combines installation, sound and costume design with physical action and dance. The eruptive performances of New Noveta channel psychic struggles, opposing everyday patterns of conformity and social oppression. In gruelling choreographies, their bodies are gripped by the panic of actionism, reflecting the compulsive exploitation of human time and emotion innate to gainful employment. At the same time, high-performance work and expenditure are disrupted by emotional, psychological and physical distress signals. Accordingly, New Noveta slip into different roles for each of their performances, employing new motifs and styles through dramatization and use of costume.

On the opening night of their solo exhibition *Fateful*, New Noveta will premiere a brand new performance in the Kunstverein. In collaboration with musician David Aird, aka Vindicatrix, they have developed an accompanying composition that combines electronic sound with live music and song. The retro-futuristic costumes – voluminous hooped petticoats – were designed by the artist Louis Backhouse. In comparison to New Noveta's earlier works, the performance has greater narrative structure, bearing formal likeness to theatrical mediums such as opera or musicals. The story draws on folktales about water, or the evil beings that dwell there. In Northern Europe, multiple variations of one such fairytale have been passed down through the generations: a river, sometimes in the form of a water spirit, demands regular human sacrifices. When the chosen sacrifice does not go willingly into the water, they die shortly afterwards in unnatural circumstances.

New Noveta use this fairy tale as a narrative framework to expose the societal and psychological dimensions of work – as well as the fears and constraints that stem from it. Using the intermixing of work and life, seen as a consequence of the unleashed market forces that envelop all spheres of activity, as a backdrop, the artists address disciplinary mechanisms and internalisations of unrestrained high-speed capitalism.

The constant mobilisation of all forces, the pressure of having to be able to work forever whilst remaining efficient and adaptable, come with panic and concerns of not being able to keep up with the pace. Fears and apprehensions are also in-

fected with the logic of exploitation. They are a driving force in the accomplishment of daily tasks, yet they work against the subject, preventing them from functioning.

In their performance and exhibition, New Noveta seize upon these psychosocial dynamics and draw an analogy between water and work. Just like water, work seems to be a vital force, it is the basis of our system of value, yet becomes life threatening – as if the water were poisoned. New Noveta activate a device during the performance that threatens to flood the exhibition space with a poisonous-green liquid. The liquid becomes part of an installation, working with sound, lighting and architectural elements to transform the performance into an exhibition.

Keira Fox (* 1984, Great Britain) and Ellen Freed (* 1988, Sweden) live in London.

Selected solo exhibitions/performances (s) and group exhibitions/performances (g):

2018: *Cealdwiella*, Arcadia Missa, London (s); 2017: *It's her*, Years, Copenhagen (s); *Violent Amurg*, Ludlow 38, New York (s); Ester Krumbachova, Tranzitdisplay, Prague (g); Performance Projekt LISTE, Basel (g); *Site Visit*, Kunstverein Freiburg (g), Freiburg; 2016: *Një Mori*, Good Forever, Düsseldorf (s); *Govore*, Cell Project Space, London (s); *Zene Zemlje*, Sandy Brown, Berlin (s); *No Nahadou*, Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (g); *Strodor Sychan Levon*, Lima Zulu Gallery, London (g); *Slip into Dëshpërim*, Lothringer 13, Munich (g); 2015: ICA, London (g); *The Museum as Performance*, Serralves Museum, Porto (g).

Opening Night

Fri, 18 May 2018, 7 pm
Performance by New Noveta

Programme

Tue, 22 May, 7 pm
Competition without Limit. On the Entrepreneurial Self
Discussion between Ulrich Bröckling and Gregor Dobler

Thu, 24 May, 7 pm
Curator's Tour with Heinrich Dietz

Tue, 29 May, 7 pm
Lecture and discussion with Nina Power

Thu, 14 June, 7 pm
Guided Tour with Ann-Kathrin Harr

Wed, 27 June, 7 pm
Discussion with Marion Mangelsdorf

Sun, 1 July, 2–4 pm
Children's improvisation performance workshop

We are happy to provide additional information and print-quality images upon request.

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Opening hours:
Tue–Sun 12am–8 pm, Wed 12am–20pm,
Mon closed
Entrance: 2 € / 1,50 €
Thursdays free, members free

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