



Double #2:
Paula Santomé – Paradox
Kathrin Sonntag – Subjects

February 8 to April 21, 2025

Curated by Simone Neuenschwander

In the **Double** exhibition format, a regional and an international position come together to create unexpected thematic links through two independent projects. For the second edition, curator Simone Neuenschwander has invited the artists **Paula Santomé** (b. 1994, Spain, lives in Basel) and **Kathrin Sonntag** (b. 1981, Germany, lives in Berlin). The works of the two artists focus on the modalities of perception in our society. Using various media – Paula Santomé with sculpture and reliefs, Kathrin Sonntag with photography and objects – they examine the hidden contexts behind social structures or things that accompany us in everyday life.

In her exhibition, **Paula Santomé** explores how the domestic environment can become a site of conflict rather than a safe space. Drawing on the history of the women's rights movement, she investigates women's agency, which has often been constrained by housework and motherhood. The artist draws on references from literature and ancient mythologies to question inherited gender roles and their perpetuation. Her hand-embossed aluminum reliefs depict various figures who are caught between imposed identities and a yearning for self-liberation. Through these works, Paula Santomé reveals concealed narratives and systems of control that inscribe themselves onto identities and bodies, employing gestures that are as symbolic and caring as they are contradictory.

In her exhibition, **Kathrin Sonntag** examines our relationship with everyday objects. Through her own system of order and playful humor, she explores the contradictory and whimsical layers of meaning, function, and prompts that emerge from the appearance of the material world of things. Her photographs, objects and *objets trouvés* are often presented in the context of installations, addressing the conditions of perception, which she repeatedly puts to the test through visual inconsistencies and deceptions. In doing so, she engages with the paradoxical cultural history of photography – a medium

that can depict “objective reality” while simultaneously manipulating the reality of the image itself. In her works, the artist fuses the still-life tradition with 17th-century tromp l’oeil and challenges the design-historical doctrine of “form follows function” with a fantastical world of things.

Opening:

Friday, February 7, 2025, 7 pm

Welcome:

Claudia Pantellini, Head of Culture

Simone Neuenschwander, curator

Events:

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 6 pm

“The Yellow Wallpaper” – Artist talk with **Paula Santomé**. In English

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6 pm

“The perception of things” – exhibition tour with Annette Amberg, curator, Coalmine, Winterthur, and Simone Neuenschwander

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6 pm

“Say Cheese!” – Guided tour and object activation with Kathrin Sonntag. With culinary experience. Please register: kunstraum@riehen.ch

The exhibitions are supported by:

Hans und Renée Müller-Meylan Stiftung

Erna und Curt Burgauer Stiftung

Dr. Georg und Josi Guggenheim-Stiftung

Kunst Raum Riehen, im Berowergut, Baselstrasse 71, 4125 Riehen

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Special opening hours:

Good Friday closed, Easter Monday 11 am – 6 pm