

Claudia Comte
Dreaming of Alligator Head
König Digital

KÖNIG GALERIE presents DREAMING OF ALLIGATOR HEAD, a virtual intervention of the gallery's physical exhibition space by Claudia Comte. Entering the digital show via smartphone as a diver, the visitor discovers the former NAVE of the brutalist church submerged in an underwater seascape. Perched amongst the marine life are a series of Comte's cactus sculptures which appear to be sprouting sea fauna.

Comte's interest in the ocean and marine life has become a recurring subject in her personal reflections and her artistic practice. In 2019, the artist created a permanent underwater exhibition in the East Portland Fish Sanctuary in Jamaica with the support of TBA21-Academy and Alligator Head Marine Lab. The park is only accessible by diving and snorkelling. It was designed as a monument for marine protection and is a tribute to the collective effort of the local community to restore the ecosystem. The sculptures support the reinvigoration of the reef and coral regrowth, as they are overlaid with coral over the coming years.

In DREAMING OF ALLIGATOR HEAD, Comte conjures an impossible scenario by replanting her underwater sculpture park inside KÖNIG GALERIE. The digital visitor experiences an intriguing underwater world without traveling, thus the artist raises awareness for marine environments. Comte strives to retain aesthetic formalisms while simultaneously asking how the artistic object can make a difference in the world.

Claudia Comte (b.1983, Grancy, Switzerland) is an artist based in Bennwil, Switzerland. Her work is defined by her interest in the memory of materials and by a careful observation of how the hand relates to different technologies. Comte studied at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne, ECAL (2004-2007) followed by a Masters of Art in Science of Education at Haute Ecole Pédagogique, Visual Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland (2008-2010). She has presented her work in solo and group exhibitions at; Kunstraum, Dornbirn; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; König Galerie, Berlin; Copenhagen Contemporary; Gladstone Gallery, New York City; MOCA Cleveland; Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis; Kunsthalle Basel; Desert X, Palm Springs; Kunstmuseum Luzern; Public Art Fund, New York; Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich; and Elevation 1049, Gstaad. Upcoming exhibitions include: the 58th October salon Belgrade Biennale and a solo presentation at The Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid in Spring 2021.

TBA21-Academy brings together scientists, writers, thinkers and artists and instigates intersectional and collaborative research, artistic production, and new forms of knowledge, investigating environmental injustice against the ocean through the lens of art.
www.tba21.org

The Alligator Head Foundation (AHF) manages a six square kilometre large marine protected area in East Portland and is dedicated to the recovery of fish stocks, improving coral growth and the overall biodiversity in the regions protected waters. AHF is the scientific partner of TBA21-Academy. Based in Portland, Jamaica, the nonprofit organization manages the East Portland Fish Sanctuary and supports the research efforts of the Alligator Head Marine Lab, with a mission to advance conservancy, protect marine life, restore habitats, and regenerate local economies.

<https://www.alligatorheadfoundation.org/>