



Léa Katharina Meier

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Léa Katharina Meier (born 1989 in Switzerland) is a performance, theater and visual artist. By employing clowning as a performative practice, her research focuses on the notions of ridiculousness, abjection, and jubilation in order to create a visual and sensory universe that embraces the audience. Out of her intimate failures, she wishes to develop a filthy, dyke sense of humour. On stage, she strives to embody negative emotions and feelings as a source of pleasure. Storytelling, the body as archive, grotesque femininity, shame, and a childlike universe are recurrent motifs in her practice.

Léa Katharina Meier has shown her work in numerous art spaces and theaters (CH: Arsenic, Tunnel Tunnel, MCBA, TU-Théâtre de l'Usine, Swiss Art Awards, Festival Programme Commun, Belluard Bollwerk, Les Urbaines, Cabaret Voltaire / IT: Lateral Roma, ADA Roma, Short Theater Festival, Festival Bande de Femmes / BR: Pivô arte e pesquisa, FAAP Residência Artística / FR: Performissima). In 2021, she received the audience and jury prizes at the Swiss Performance Art Awards for "Tous les sexes tombent du ciel" who was presented in 2025 as part of the swiss selection in Avignon (FR). In 23-24, she is a resident of the Swiss Institute in Rome (IT) and received an award of the Irène Reymond Fondation in Lausanne (CH).



Terminale Hysteria

Performance, Arsenic, Théâtre de l'usine, 105 min, 2024



Welcome to Terminale Hysteria, a kitsch and cruel metropol populated by sexy fat cats, DaddyMummy, KarenKaren and four colourful Monsieur Monsieur! Punctuated by reenactments of domestic violence, support groups, imaginary journeys, heart attacks, and self-centred, narcissistic cabaret acts, Terminale Hysteria is a farce that caricatures conservative thinking in order to point out its ridiculousness. Through absurdity and laughter, Tatiana Baumgartner and Léa Katharina Meier, accompanied by Maria Fernanda Ordoñez and Dominique Gilliot, attempt to get rid of oppressive norms for the duration of a show by reinventing the fears and violence that inhabit them. Inspired in particular by satirical television sketches, the films of John Waters and Valérie Solanas' play Up your Ass, the four performers create a playground in which to enjoy transcending the nightmarish political visions that surround us.

> [Watch the trailer](#)

Concept, writing, direction and performance:: Tatiana Baumgartner et Léa Katharina Meier.
 Artistic collaboration and performance: Maria Fernanda Ordoñez, Dominique Gilliot.
 Dramaturgy: Adina Secretan.
 Lighting design and direction: Vicky Althaus.
 Set design and stage management: Guits.
 Artistic and technical support: Redwan Reys.
 Sound design and direction: Charlotte Carteret.
 Writing advisor, external eye: Nayansaku Mufwankolo.
 Costumes: Safia Semlali.
 Mask creation & special effects: Chaïm Vischel.
 Administration, production: Artemisia Romano.
 Coproduction: Arsenic - Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne, TU-Théâtre de l'Usine, Genève. Soutiens: Perform! Pro Helvetia, Fondation Ernst Göhner, Fondation Leenaards, Loterie Romande Vaud, Service des Affaires culturelles du Canton de Vaud, Ville de Lausanne.



Terminale Hysteria
 Spectacle, 120:00, Arsenic, Lausanne, 2024

La Grande-Biblioteca-Bagnata-Umida- Lubrificata-Vergognosa

Performance, 55:00, Short Theater Festival, Rome, 2024





La Grande-Biblioteca-Bagnata-Umida-Lubrificata-Vergognosa
Performance, 50:00, Short Theater Festival, Rome,

How does one develop jubilating stories and hilarious archives out of the experience of shame? Which kind of knowledge lies in the closet? What is a collective practice of shame?

Léa-The-Book-Of-Shame and Mayara-The-Book-Of-Justice invite you to their Great-Wet-Soaked-Lubrificated-Shameful-Library and to a very playful and grotesque performance in which they will share stories hidden away in their closet, in order to come up with a few possible answers to these questions. Together, we may laugh till we cry, pee our pants, and feel deeply embarrassed.

This work is part of a visual and performative research project focusing on books, libraries and archives as intimate landscapes. The dyke tales created for the project simultaneously constitute, contaminate and disorganize the archive the performance invites the audience into. Between the reenactment of traumatic experiences and a fantastical, childish universe, the performance seeks to transform shame into pleasure through embodiment and laughter

> [Watch the video of the performance](#)

Concept, costumes, scenography and performance: Léa Katharina Meier

Artistic collaboration and performance: Mayara Yamada

Music: Serge Teuscher

Secret Garden of the Garbage of the Feelings

Installation, Swiss Art Awards Show, Basel, 2023



Míasma Ficção

Video, 25:39, 2023



Once upon a time in Brazil, a curious Cheese wanted to know who had brought the Matterhorn to Nova Friburgo. In its quest, it encounters the Living Statue of William Tell, who is very busy polishing his colonial paradise. Will the cheese find an answer to its question? Only the Miasma, who tells this story, knows the secret...

"Miasma Ficção" is a critical and humorous tale about the Swiss colonial presence and past, as well as the political and symbolic representation of Switzerland in Brazil. The video features typical figures that are part of the collective Swiss cultural psyche or represent the theme of cleanliness and hygiene: the statue of William Tell, a typical Gruyère cheese and a Miasma, who acts as the narrator of the fable. These characters move through the current city of Nova Friburgo, obsessed with Swiss purity and locked in their colonial delusion.

> Watch the video

A film by: Léa Katharina Meier

Artistic collaboration: Lina Kaplan, Luana Fonseca Damásio, Lucas Canavarro, Natália Araújo

Cinematography, sound and editing: Lucas Canavarro, Lina Kaplan

Color correction and finalization: Lina Kaplan

Research, production and costume assistance: Luana Fonseca Damásio

Production and set assistance: Natália Araújo

Sound design and soundtrack: Luisa Lemgruber

Sound mixing and mastering: Caio Zan

Costumes: Liza Machado, Léa Katharina Meier

Curatorial support: Icaro Ferraz Vidal

Junior Voice and pronunciation coach: Mayara Yamada

Credits design: Lucas Canavarro

This film was made possible with the support of: Pro Helvetia América do Sul, Fonds Culturel

Sud, Fondation Eva et Curt Burgauer, Service des affaires culturelles de l'Etat de Vaud

Production: a Association LES MAUVAIS JOURS FINIRONT! Coproduction: Arsenic - Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne



MIASMA FICÇÃO
Video, 25:39, 2023

Sunday walk at the Great-Library

Drawing, A3, 2024



Nuit nommée fantôme

Solo Show, tunnel tunnel, Lausanne, 2022





By merging together text, drawing and textiles, Léa Katharina Meier creates atmospheres that are both scary and reassuring, tender and monstrous, in which shame and pleasure occupy an empowering place. Through a performative installation reminiscent of some of the artist's scenographies, the exhibition "Nuit nommée Fantôme" transforms the spaces of Tunnel Tunnel into a room, a body or a city, serenaded by the light of street lamps and fabulous stories.

> [See the online documentation of the show](#)

> [Listen to sound piece n°1](#)

> [Listen to sound piece n°2](#)

Artistic and technical collaboration: Guits, Vicky Althaus.

Writing advisor:: Nayansaku Mufwankolo.

Music and sound atmosphere: Serge Teuscher.

Pictures: Vicky Althaus.

With the support of: Pro Helvetia, Fondation Leenaards, Service des affaires culturelles du Canton de Vaud, La Ville de Lausanne, Fonds Respect



Nuit nommée fantôme
Solo Show, tunnel tunnel, Lausanne, 2022



Nuit nommée fantôme
Solo Show, tunnel tunnel, Lausanne, 2022



Jour de Fête

Publication, tunnel tunnel, 2023



Bad womxn, Ogers, Giants, Monsters, Clowns, Firebreathers, Scissorors. Garbage truck races, Big drinking parties, Magic tricks, Garbage truck races, Spring cleaning, Laughter, Sexualities, Garbage truck, Collapses, Selected archivexs, Overflow, Broken coeurexs, Collective pee, Fires, Tears that flow freely, Garbage trucks, Explosion of red wine bottles.

Invited by Tunnel Tunnel, Léa Katharina Meier presents her first book in collaboration with graphic designer Gaëlle Renaudin. Jour de fête consists of a series of drawings and a tale about the story of The Ghost Tempérance-Vin-Ouverte [Temperance-Open-Wine] and Lae Grandex-Aspirateureusex-Des-Sentiments [The Big-Feelings-Swallower] in La Ville-Nommée-Désire [The City-Named-Desire].

> See the publication «Jour de Fête» online

Graphic Design and artistic collaboration: Gaëlle Renaudin

Writting advisor: Nayansaku Mufwankolo

Corrections: Margaux Lang

Copy editing: Adina Secretan, Juliana Stadelman, Max Hauri, Valentina D'Avenia

Lithography, Print and Binding: Imprimerie Les Deux Ponts

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Jour de Fête
Publication, tunnel tunnel, 2023

Tous les sexes tombent du ciel

Performance, 80:00, Arsenic, Lausanne, 2021





Tous les sexes tombent du ciel
spectacle, 80:00, Arsenic, Lausanne, 2021

In her filthy, pink and silky house, a character dances, performs magic tricks and sings a desolate song while the voyeuristic gaze of the audience invites itself into the intimacy, behind closed-doors. By putting herself in these foolish and awkward situations, Léa Katharina Meier uses a clownish prism to adopt a type of laughter and humor that runs counter to the hetero-normative gaze. She cultivates ambivalence and crossovers between monstrosity, abjectness and the cutest of things. Pathetic and tender, this little being's stubbornness in their search of joy and a touch of the marvelous contaminates with their dignified vulnerability and empowering naiveté.

How does shame create a context for exhilarating experiences? In this childlike and cruel universe, this tale of dirtiness, with its ogresses and giantesses, invites us to live in dirty houses, laugh at the absurd and look upon the papier-mâché scenery of damaged hearts.

> [Watch the video of the performance](#)

Artistic and stage direction collaboration : Tatiana Baumgartner.

Dramaturgical support : Adina Secretan.

Light Design : Vicky Althaus.

Sound Design : Serge Teuscher.

External eyes : Jonas Van, Charlotte Nagel.

Clowning coaching : Rafaela Azevedo.

Ballet coaching : Claire Dessimoz.

Writing consultant : Nayansaku Mufwankolo.

Construction : Guits.

Coproduction : TU - Théâtre de l'Usine, Arsenic - Centre d'art scénique contemporain

With the support of: Ville de Lausanne, Direction de la culture de la Ville de Vevey, Ernst

Göhner Stiftung, Fondation Nestlé pour l'art, Canton de Vaud, Fondation MLH, PREMIO - Prix d'encouragement pour les arts de la scène, Pro Helvetia.



Tous les sexes tombent du ciel
spectacle, 80:00, Arsenic, Lausanne, 2021

The Library and the Scissors Closet

Drawing, A3, 2024



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FORMATION

- 2015 Master of Arts, hes-so in fine Arts
Work.Master, Pratiques artistiques contemporaines
Head-Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design, Genève (CH)
- 2012 Bachelor of Arts, hesb in Fine Arts
HKB-Hochschule der Künste Bern (CH)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 COMPASS, Production and diffusion grant from Pro Helvetia
- 2024 PERFORM!, Performance grant from Pro Helvetia
- 2024 Award of Fondation Irène Reymond, Lausanne (CH)
- 2022 Visual art grant, Pro Helvetia
- 2022 Research grant, Canton de Vaud (CH)
- 2021 Jury and public award, Swiss Performance Art Award, (CH)
- 2021 Visual art research grant, Fonds Culturel, Bern (CH)
- 2021 Research grant, Canton de Vaud (CH)
- 2020 Demi Finalist, PREMIO - Prix d'encouragement aux arts de la scène, (CH)

RESIDENCIES

- 23-24 Roma Calling, Institut suisse de Rome (IT)
- 2022 Research trip in Brazil, Pro Helvetia Amérique du Sud, Rio de Janeiro (BR)
- 2019 Pivô arte pesquisa, São Paulo (BR)
- 2018 FAAP Residência artística, São Paulo (BR)
- 2017 Arc Artist Residency, Romainmôtier (CH)
Watch and talk, Festival Programme Commun, Lausanne (CH)
- 2016 Watch and talk, Far°, Nyon (CH)
How we do, Aua wir leben Theater festival, Berne (CH)

NEXT

- 10.25 Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde, Performance, Performissima, Paris (FR)
- 06.26 Art Môtiers, Exposition collective, Môtiers (CH)
- 09.26 La Grande Bibliothèque, Création, Arsenic, Lausanne (CH)

PERFORMANCES, SHOWS & PROJECTS

- 2025 Les ciseaux du placard de la bibliothèque, Exposition, Zabriskie, Genève (CH)
La Grande-Biblioteca-Bagnata, Performativ reading, Zabriskie, Genève, Cabaret Voltaire, Zürich (CH)
Tous les sexes tombent du ciel, Performance, Sélection suisse en Avignon (FR), Programme Commun (2024), Lausanne, Tojo Theater (2023), Bern, BIG (2023), Genève, Le Pommier (2022), Neuchâtel, Arsenic (2021), Lausanne, TU-Théâtre de l'Usine (2021), Genève, Lokremise (2021), Saint-Gall, (CH)
Miasma Ficção, Screening, Festival Belluard Bollwerk, Fribourg, Le Cinématographe, Cinéma Arsenic (2023), Festival de la Cité (2024), Lausanne (CH)
- 2024 Terminale Hysteria, Performance, Arsenic, Lausanne, TU-Théâtre de l'Usine, Genève (CH)
La Grande-Biblioteca-Bagnata, Performance, Istituto Svizzero, Short Theater Festival, Roma (IT)
The Great Story of Cleanliness, Performativ Reading, ADA project, Roma (IT)
L'Effet de Serre, Group show, Abbazia de Bellelay (CH)
Speaking nearby, Group show, Institut suisse, Rome (IT)
Forbici nell'Armadio della Biblioteca, Solo show, Festival Bande de Femmes, Tuba, Rome (IT)
- 2023 Com'è bello fare l'amore, Duo Show, Lateral, Roma (IT)
Swiss Art Awards, Group show, Messe, Bâle (CH)
Jour de Fête, Publication, Tunnel Tunnel, Lancement aux Médusales, Lausanne (CH)
Jardin d'Hiver, Group show, MCBA, Lausanne (CH)
Love Stories, Group show, Espace 3353, Genève (CH)
Mythologiyi, Group show, Kasko, Bâle (CH)
Gravity-inertia-impulsion, Performativ project with Anne Sylvie Henchoz, Flux Laboratory, Genève (CH)
Magique Abjection Dream, Performance, MCBA, Lausanne (CH), Flight of Fancy (2022), HIT, Genève (CH)

2022

- La Grande Histoire de Propreté, Performativ reading, Festival de la Cité, Lausanne (CH)
Textes à lire à voix haute, Collectiv translation, Publication, Brook, Paris (FR)
The Fridge Show, Group show, Palazzina, Bâle (CH)
Nuit nommée Fantôme, Solo Show, Tunnel Tunnel, Lausanne (CH)

2021

- STITCHES, Group show, Le Commun, Genève (CH)
Le bronze ne fond qu'avec le feu, Collectiv research project, Festival Belluard Bollwerk, Fribourg (CH)

2020

- Swiss Neutral, Group show, eeeeh!, Nyon (CH)
Crachons sur Hegel et bye bye, Group show, Forde, Genève (CH)
Ma Maison est une Maison sale, Performance, Festival Schamlos, Tojo Theater, Berne (CH), Ausstelungraum Klingenthal (2019), Bâle (CH), Arsenic, Lausanne (CH), Riverside (2018), Berne (CH),

2019

- Corpo Aberto - Um arquivo de sentimentos, Curatoriat, Emergency, Vevey (CH)
Quem chega cedo beba água limpa, Screening, BDQI, eeeeh!, Nyon (CH)

- GUERISON BABY GIRL, Performance, Festival Antigél, La Ferme de la Chapelle, Genève (CH)

2018

- O Buraco da Gloria, Performance, BDQI, eeeh!, Nyon (CH), Festival Corpo a terra, Ourense (ES)
Je conduis mon propre camion poubelle, Solo Show, Riverside, Bern (CH)

