



BERLIN

MERIEM BENNANI – PARTY ON THE CAPS

25 JANUARY – 3 MAY 2020



Meriem Bennani, *Party on the CAPS*, 2018, Eight-channel video installation, 30', color, sound. Video still. Courtesy of the artist and CLEARING, New York / Brussels.

Meriem Bennani's first solo exhibition in Germany will present *Party on the CAPS* (2018), an eight-channel video installation exploring displacement, resilience, and the relationship between identity and place. Conceived as a documentary set in a speculative future about daily life on CAPS, an island turned megacity in the middle of the Atlantic, where migrants are detained, the work amplifies reality through special effects and humor.

Bennani, a Moroccan artist based in New York, conceptualized CAPS in 2017 while researching subatomic teleportation and in response to Donald Trump's US travel ban. The work offers an acute political commentary on Western immigration and surveillance policies, summoning a dystopian reality only slightly different from our own. In the work, Bennani also pays tribute to difference and hybridity by resisting essentialist notions of identity and culture, instead addressing the



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in-between and multiple states of life in the diaspora. As viewers we are witness to a celebration—or party—of collectivity and family.

In the future world in which the island of CAPS (short for capsule) exists, teleportation has replaced other forms of travel, enabling bodies to easily move from one place to another. CAPS was established as a temporary holding area for illegal migrants intercepted mid-teleportation on their way to the US. The island is surrounded by a magnetic field, guarded by US troops, and subject to total surveillance, making it almost impossible to leave. Bennani's docunarrative begins two generations after the establishment of CAPS: cut off from the rest of the world, the island has developed its own internal logic, currency, infrastructure, traditions, cuisine, and media. CAPS is characterized by a *mélange* of hybrid cultures—growing out of the myriad identities of its inhabitants, their makeshift living situation, and the dominance of digital technologies—and is populated by cyborgian, often injured, bodies adapting to and coping with the island's oppressive environment and the aftereffects of teleportation.

Party on the CAPS highlights Bennani's playful and unique visual language inspired by reality TV, YouTube, documentary, social media, and animation, examining the boundaries of what we regard as familiar and strange, real and virtual. For the exhibition at JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION, the screens and sculptural elements that make up *Party on the CAPS* have been adapted to the gallery space to create a large-scale and wholly immersive environment.

Meriem Bennani (b. 1988 in Rabat, Morocco, lives and works in Brooklyn, New York) graduated with a BFA from The Cooper Union in New York and an MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Recent solo exhibitions by Bennani have been shown at Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2019); The Kitchen, New York (2017); Art Dubai (2016); MoMA PS1, New York (2016); Signal Gallery, New York (2015); and Stream Gallery, New York (2015). Her work has also been shown internationally in group exhibitions including the Whitney Biennial, New York (2019); Biennale of Moving Images, Geneva (2018); Public Art Fund, New York (2017); Shanghai Biennale (2016); the Frank F. Yang Art & Education Foundation, Shenzhen (2016); Flax Fahrenheit, Los Angeles (2016); Jewish Museum, New York (2015); and MANA Contemporary, Chicago (2015). Bennani's work is part of the collections of The Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; and Kadist Foundation, Paris.



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HORIZONTAL VERTIGO

31 March 2019 – 19 July 2020

Curated by Lisa Long

horizontal vertigo is an ensemble of solo exhibitions, performances, screenings, and talks at the JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION in Dusseldorf and Berlin, striving to amplify the multiplicity of narratives and narrators at hand while acknowledging their difference.

Over the course of one year, *horizontal vertigo* brings together a diverse group of international and interdisciplinary artists who use film, video, installation, performance, poetry, virtual reality, and sound in inquiries and ruminations that embrace various modes storytelling and presentation to address marginalized histories and cultural hybrids, fractured identities, and the entanglement of the self in a world of systems and networks.

THE CONCEPT OF THE JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION

The principle behind the private collection of contemporary art is the aspect of contemporaneity, connected to the aspiration of reflecting social and cultural trends of the respectively current generation. The constantly growing collection is consequently focused in its conception on the moving image from the 1960s onwards and spans a range of disciplines: video, single and multiple image projections of analogous and digital film material, multimedia environments as well as computer and internet based installations, not to mention ephemeral art forms such as performances. The collection currently comprises over 850 works by approximately 250 mostly European and American artists.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRESS CONFERENCE

23 January 2019, 11:00 a.m.

A press conference is taking place at JSC Berlin, Leipziger Strasse 60 (Entrance: Jerusalemer Strasse). The artist and the curator will be present.

ARTIST TALK

24 January 2020, 6:00 p.m.

An artist talk with Meriem Bennani and Lisa Long will take place at JSC Berlin, Leipziger Strasse 60 (Entrance: Jerusalemer Strasse). No registration in advance required, free entrance.

OPENING

24 January 2020, 7:00-10:00 p.m., JSC Berlin



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EXHIBITION DURATION

25 January – 3 May 2020

OPENING TIMES

Saturdays & Sundays, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

ADMISSION

EUR 10.00

Admission is free for children and adolescents that are 18 years old or younger, school pupils, students, occupational trainees, the disabled, pensioners, the unemployed, and recipients of social security on producing valid identification.

PARTIAL DISABLED ACCESS

Disabled access is to the ground floor of JSC Berlin. The 1st floor is not accessible for visitors using a wheelchair or for children's pushchairs. (Access by stairs only, there is no elevator available).

PUBLIC GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION IN GERMAN

Sundays, 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION IN ENGLISH

Saturdays, 3:00 p.m.

Register at <https://www.jsc.art/calendar/>

GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS

Please make any inquiries for guided tours for groups by email at visit.berlin@jsc.art

Price: EUR 20.00 per person for groups of 10 people and more (including admission fee)

FACEBOOK /juliastoschekcollection

INSTAGRAM @juliastoschekcollection

#juliastoschekcollection #jscberlin #horizontalvertigo #meriembennani #partyonthecaps



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PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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