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LAGO MIO

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 Artist residency/residenza d'artista  
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# CHIKA ANADU ZAYNE ARMSTRONG TOBIAS MADISON

Lago Mio Lugano artist residency  
Final presentation  
26 October–25 November 2019

Curated by Benedikt Wyss

Lago Mio was inaugurated in March 2019 with a happening by Swiss artist Johannes Willi. This **final presentation** features the works created in summer/fall by the following three guest artists: Chika Anadu, Zayne Armstrong, and Tobias Madison.

Most of the works produced within the framework of Lago Mio are represented in a limited catalog of 100 copies, the inaugural **Lago Mio Edition No. 1**. Video stills printed in this book can be set in motion via the brand-new **video app** PRIMO Print in motion.

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In July 2019, Lago Mio's doors opened to London-based Nigerian writer and director **Chika Anadu**. The exhibition presents her multimedia work *JOURNEYS*: two videos (*The Herd* and *The Transients*) and a photography series with sound (*The Unseeable*).

Two weeks later, EU-based, American born filmmaking artist **Zayne Armstrong** moved in. He took up work on a large research project, and some of the results are presented in this exhibition. You will find an installation including two video works (*Colloquio* and *Visual Effects*).

Swiss artist **Tobias Madison** has not yet been able to physically attend the residency: He is involved in an ongoing court case. Tobias will explain what stood in his way in a conversation that will be published in the edition via the app in due course. His artworks featured in the exhibition are dealing with his case: two sound/video works (*PO-ZILEI* and *Rain*) and two posters (*The Rule of Law* and *A Calendar*).

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# TOBIAS MADISON

Room 1

Tobias Madison

*POZILEI (women that protect you)*, 2019

Full HD Video, infinite loop/2 mins 42 secs, sound

Room 2

Tobias Madison

*Rain*, 2019

SD Video, 4 mins, sound

Room 3

Tobias Madison

*A Calendar*, 2019

Poem, 84,1 x 118,9 cm

Corridor

Tobias Madison

*The Rule of Law*, 2019

Xerox of collage on paper, 84,1 x 118,9 cm

Tobias Madison applied for Lago Mio in spring 2019 because Ticino, its local traditions, and its history of counter cultural formations had been a source of interest and admiration for him for many years. In Lugano, he intended to enter into dialogue and exchange with like-minded people and develop a new project around this conversation. But: Things turned out differently. Instead of dealing with his Ticino surroundings, Tobias examines the strata of captivity in the US judicial system. The exhibition presents some personal and yet extroverted works dealing with his current situation.

*POZILEI (Women That Protect You)* shows cellphone footage of a drunken man wearing a Balenciaga jacket with text read by a lawyer, a mother, and a wife. *The Rule Of Law* is a photocopy of a collage. The text is from a grammar guideline for a US academic publisher. *A Calendar* is a poster of the calendar of Tobias Madison, from March 8 until November 4, 2019. And *Rain*: a short film about the Manhattan Criminal Court, in the midst of thunderstorm in August 2019, including the first few notes of Nina Simone's performance of I wish I knew how it feels to be free, recorded in Montreux, 1976.

# ZAYNE ARMSTRONG

Room 4

Zayne Armstrong

*Colloquio*, 2019

53 mins 32 secs

single channel HD color video with stereo sound, featuring Maria Enrica Torcianti and Luca Rossi Dossi

Room 4

Zayne Armstrong

*Cutter (1)*, 2019

260 x 152.5 x 5 cm

wood frame, brown cotton and down sleeping bag, gold film, hardware, powder coated steel corner profile stand

Room 4

Zayne Armstrong

*Cutter (2)*, 2019

240 x 156 x 5 cm

wood frame, blue cotton and polyester sleeping bag, two-tone embroidered polyester lamé, hardware, powder coated steel corner profile stand

Room 4

Zayne Armstrong

*Part of Your World over Pasta*, 2019

A0 color ink-jet print of lyrics from 'Part of Your World' by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, box of spaghetti, wallpaper paste

Room 4

Zayne Armstrong

*Secret over Rose Quarts Roller*, 2019

A4 color ink-jet print of lyrics from 'Secret' by Madonna, packaged rose quarts face roller, box of Mon Cheri confectionery, wallpaper paste

Room 5

Zayne Armstrong

*Visual Effects*, 2019

7 mins 21 secs

single channel HD color video

Room 5

Zayne Armstrong

*Stairs over Remote Control Truck*, 2019

A0 black & white ink-jet print of Haus de

# CHIKA ANADU

Jaager and Casa Anatta, packaged remote control truck, wallpaper paste

## Room 5

Zayne Armstrong

*Cutter (3)*, 2019

239.7 x 152.5 x 4 cm

wood frame, red polyester sleeping bag, pink polyester mesh, hardware, powder coated steel corner profile stand

## Room 6

Zayne Armstrong

*Cutter (4)*, 2019

240 x 168.5 x 5 cm

wood frame, printed cotton sleeping bag, gold lamé, powder coated steel corner profile stand

Most of Zayne Armstrong's films began with the impulse «to better understand something that pissed me off.» While the term «self fiction» or the practice of employing personal experience to inform stories, is rather typical for storytellers, Zayne found that the term conjures a double meaning. Fictions can be informed by one's own life, but also to create fictitious versions of oneself.

Zayne is currently developing a feature film with the working title *Grounded*, confronting the ethics of consent to observe, which is a theme that has repeatedly emerged in his filmmaking practice. He is approaching it with research into pedagogy, specifically through analyzing a part of the Steiner school pedagogy called Child Study and by looking at the social constitution of identity. *Colloquio*, one of the works that Zayne presents at Lago Mio, emerged during his research process and is displayed within a multi-part installation.

*Visual Effects* is an in-exhaustive analysis of some of the costuming of witch characters in films, wherein Zayne is trying to watch frame the clothing as a way to isolate some of the aesthetic of the witch.

## Room 7

Chika Anadu

*JOURNEYS*, 2019

*The Transients*

Digital video, 9 mins 51 secs, stereo sound

## Room 8

Chika Anadu

*JOURNEYS*, 2019

*The Herd*

Digital video, 11 mins 58 secs, stereo sound

## Room 9

Chika Anadu

*JOURNEYS*, 2019

*The Unseeable*

Digital photography

Stereo sound

The inspiration for the works that filmmaker Chika Anadu created at Lago Mio goes back 10 years, to her experience as a black woman travelling by train from Como, Italy, to Lugano on her first and only previous journey to Switzerland.

*JOURNEYS* (2019) explores three groups of people: *The Herd* – those travelling to Lugano for work. They march down from the station and down into the city, together but separate, unspeaking. Creating a discordant symphony with the clickety-clack of their shoes on the concrete floors. *The Transients* – travelling through Lugano train station: people, luggage. Pushing, pulling, enquiring, sitting, standing, and waiting for their turn to leave. It's loud! Now it's quiet. *The Unseeable* – those not allowed to travel to or through Lugano (illegal immigrants). Many, sitting alone on park benches in Como, waiting. Waiting and watching as life passes them by, but life never returns their gaze.