

# C H A R I M

*I love you and leave you*

20 March - 4 May 2024

Eva Beresin, Judith Eisler, Aline Sofie Rainer,  
Constanze Ruhm, Tamuna Sirbiladze, Lucie Stahl

“I love you and leave you” coincides with Women’s History Month, which annually highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. The title of the show is taken from the title of an Eva Beresin painting, which will be on display in the artist’s solo exhibition “Thick Air” at the Albertina Museum, Vienna (1.5. - 15.9.2024). Likewise Tamuna Sirbiladze has a solo retrospective at the Belvedere 21, Vienna “Not Cool but Compelling” (22.3. - 11.8.24) and Constanze Ruhm is included in the group exhibition “Auf den Schultern von Riesinnen” (On the Shoulders of Giantesses) at the Künstlerhaus, Vienna (9.3. - 9.6.24). Charim gallery takes this opportunity to exhibit select works by these six female artists this Spring.

Collectively, these cross-generational practices deal with a psychological dimension of selfhood as one’s body performs in social contexts, understood through the appropriation of images from literature, cinema and art history, and the contemporary imperative to mediate oneself.

Eva Beresin works with her body and a cast of characters, equally the burden of memory and fantasy. The recent turn in her work is indebted to social media - the phone in hand, the paint brush in the other, she takes pics of herself and the work itself, assessing each through the lens, a constant workflow. The small painting in this exhibition “Funny Games”, an obvious nod to Michael Haneke (not funny) but also the continual act of self mediation and self appraisal (funny, not funny).

Judith Eisler, Aline Sofie Rainer and Constanze Ruhm each take female characters from cinema’s history. As a series of forms they tell more of a history of representation than characters as such. Eisler works with the pause button and camera looking for a precise instant that embodies an action, an emotion, and psychological tension. Her painting “Marianne” takes a moment from the 1968 Jack Cardiff film “The Girl on a Motorcycle”, where the protagonist played by Marianne Faithful leaves an unhappy marriage on the eponymous motorcycle, for a lover. The moment of the painting captures Faithful as she stands on top of a horse inside a tent, the visual abstraction of the moment captures her suspended, falling or in flight, the flaring orange-red and blue lights, and the reflections on her leather jumpsuit.

Ruhm's "Renewal of Perspective" consists of a series of 24 photographs of the original Parisian locations of Godard's "Vivre sa vie". The photographs take scenes from the film and make visible the protagonist's perspective that is not shown in the film - namely that of the film character over the camera. In her film "X NaNa / Subroutine" Ruhm features the character Nana who has abandoned her "source code" - the film "Vivre sa vie" - and finds herself confronted with the question of her origin. Aline Sofie Rainer's paintings "Gravity" and "Grace" are based on film stills from Tarkovsky's "Solaris" and "Stalker" and understanding from Simone Weil's book "Gravity and Grace". Rainer considers two minor female characters from the films rather as core protagonists. Her paintings of these two women also touch on pain and desire; a musing on colour and spirituality that she tries to connect to the present state.

Giving form to female tropes, Sirbiladze focuses on bodily representations in classical settings by art historical masters, such as, Matisse. Sirbiladze clearly delineates the anthropomorphic from the abstract. Lucie Stahl features herself in her works with the use of her own hands visible in the lustrous advertising-like posters that appear as voyeuristic insights into a medley of borrowed images that are constructed, construed and fabricated. The artist is involved and we see her hold an image - that with which she deals behind her own eyes, quite consciously through her posters: "Give us your body for a week and we'll give back your mind" and "Ein Mythos verblasst".

I love you and leave you. And then I might return to you. Within the reflections of my selves.

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Lucie Stahl appears courtesy of Galerie Meyer Kainer.