

presents

## ***Thrill Me. The Power & Magic of Music in Video Art***

Kunsthalle Luzern/stattkino Luzern, Kunstraum Walcheturm (Zurich),  
Stadtkino Basel

Between Saturday 28 October and Friday 24 November 2023

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

The nomadic video art platform VIDEO WINDOW, which is run by the freelance curator Bruno Z'Graggen (Zurich), presents *Thrill Me. The Power & Magic of Music in Video Art*, a new, three-part international screening programme featuring one video from each of 23 prominent positions, twelve from Switzerland and eleven from abroad. The programme sheds light on the fundamental importance of music in video art and covers a fascinating art-historical spectrum from the 1990s to the present day.

The screening programme can be seen in Lucerne, Zurich and Basel between Saturday 28 October and Friday 24 November 2023. It is being realised as a cooperation between VIDEO WINDOW and Kunsthalle Luzern, together with the performance venues stattkino Luzern, Kunstraum Walcheturm in Zurich and Stadtkino Basel. In Lucerne, the three parts will be shown as separate events followed by artists' talks and refreshments. Each of the other two locations will host a long, festival-like screening of the entire programme.

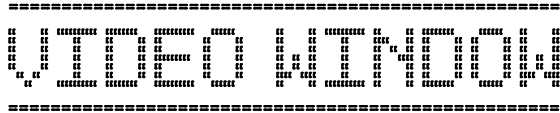
The project addresses the audio-visual interaction between music and image in video art and communicates, in a highly entertaining manner, the cross-cultural, universal fascination, power and magic of music as the elixir of life. The synergy between the picture and the sound, noises, tones or music are an essential feature of video art. The sequence and composition of the images, interwoven with the soundtrack, form the narrative and the dramaturgy of the works. The sound and the music charge the atmosphere and reinforce and give power and presence to the images, while, at the same time, establishing their own focuses, creating listening experiences and expanding the associative and imaginative spheres of the audience.

The three-part programme brings together 23 acclaimed positions, each represented by one video work. Twelve come from Switzerland and the other eleven from Europe, North and South America, Africa and Asia. The selection stretches back to 1990 in the form of the video *You Called Me Jacky* by Pipilotti Rist and refers to three strands that, alongside the work of the Korean video art pioneer Nam June Paik, helped to shape the successful combination of image, sound and music: experimental film, MTV/pop culture and an important exploratory phase in video art before and at the threshold to digitalisation during the 1990s.

The contributions are dominated by performance-like works full of song and mimic, concert-like appearances by solo artists and groups, choreography, rhythm, dance, ritualisations and joyful experimentation. The works include videos that resemble music clips, animation, abstraction, film collages, documentaries, footage material, parodies and cinematic allusions that range as far as action movies.

The video works take us on a trip around the world and allow many musical genres to resonate: R&B, pop and K-pop, techno, African music, frevo, hip hop, classical, folk songs and film music. The focus is on powerful emotions and subjects such as individual and collective identity, gender, love and power, violence and resistance, politics and business.

Each of the three independent parts runs for 70 minutes. The programme begins with the work to which it owes its name, *Thrill Me* (2004) by the Swiss artist Una Szeemann, who accompanies Michael Jackson's metamorphosis with his megahit *Thriller* (1982). The album and music video established a new benchmark in the world of pop culture in the very early days of MTV. Michael Jackson's dazzling figure and success still fascinate us today and raise many critical questions — which are also addressed in the videos by Wojtek Doroszuk and Akosua Adoma Owusu.



## ***Thrill Me. The Power & Magic of Music in Video Art***

### Information about the Screening Programme

The screening programme consists of one video from each of 23 artists that are shown in three parts, each lasting 70 minutes.

**Part 1:** Una Szeemann, collectif\_fact, Jannik Giger, Max Philipp Schmid, Muda Mathis, Grace Ndiritu, Wojtek Doroszuk

**Part 2:** Charles Atlas, Halil Altindere, Dan Halter, Gery Georgieva, Dominik Stauch, Uriel Orlow, Pipilotti Rist, Christoph Oertli, Lewis Klahr, Marianne Halter & Mario Marchisella

**Part 3:** Jiwon Choi, Dirk Koy, Quynh Dong, Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca, Akosua Adoma Owusu, Manu Luksch

For more information about the programme, the works and the CVs of the artists please see: flyer, programme booklet and website: <https://brunozgraggen.ch/video-window>.

### Programme, Locations and Dates

The presentations take place in Lucerne, Zurich and Basel. In Lucerne, the three screenings are accompanied by artists' talks followed by refreshments in Kunsthalle Luzern.

#### **1. Kunsthalle Luzern / stattkino Luzern**

Bourbaki Panorama, Löwenplatz 11, 6004 Lucerne  
<https://kunsthalle-luzern.ch> and <https://www.stattkino.ch>

**Part 1: Saturday 28 October 2023, 18:15–20:00**  
Artists' talk with: Jannik Giger, Muda Mathis and Sus Zwick

**Part 2: Saturday 4 November 2023, 18:15–20:00**  
Artists' talk with: Dominik Stauch and Wolfgang Zwiauer, musician

**Part 3: Saturday 11 November 2023, 18:15–20:00**  
Artists' talk with: Quynh Dong and Dirk Koy

Moderation of the artists' talks: Bruno Z'Graggen and Michael Sutter, Director of Kunsthalle Luzern

#### **2. Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zurich**

Kanonengasse 20, 8004 Zurich  
<https://www.walcheturm.ch>

Parts 1–3: **Saturday 18 November 2023, 18:00–22:45**

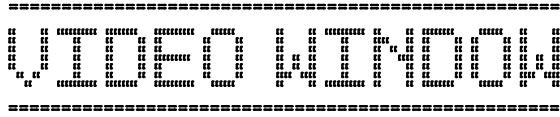
Welcome: Bruno Z'Graggen, in the presence of some of the artists  
Two intervals of 30 minutes, bar service

#### **3. Stadtkino Basel**

Klostergasse 5, 4051 Basel  
<https://www.stadtkinobasel.ch>

Parts 1–3: **Friday 24 November 2023, 18:00–22:45**

Welcome: Bruno Z'Graggen, in the presence of some of the artists  
Two intervals of 30 minutes, bar service



## 23 Artistic Positions

The international programme shows one work from each of twelve positions from Switzerland and eleven from abroad.

### 12 Positions, Switzerland

collectif\_fact, Quynh Dong, Jannik Giger, Marianne Halter & Mario Marchisella, Dirk Koy, Muda Mathis, Christoph Oertli, Uriel Orlow, Pipilotti Rist, Max Philipp Schmid, Dominik Stauch, Una Szeemann

### 11 Positions, International

Halil Altindere (TR), Charles Atlas (US), Jiwon Choi (KR), Wojtek Dorozuk (PL), Gery Georgieva (BG/UK), Dan Halter (ZW/ZA), Lewis Klahr (US), Manu Luksch (AT), Grace Ndiritu (KE/UK), Akosua Adoma Owusu (GH/US), Bárbara Wagner (BR) & Benjamin de Burca (IE/DE)

For more information about the artists please see: flyer, programme booklet and website.

## Curatorship

Bruno Z'Graggen, Curator, VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich

Supported by: Michael Sutter, Director, Kunsthalle Luzern

VIDEO WINDOW is a nomadic platform that aims to communicate and encourage discussion of video art in Switzerland and internationally. Its presentations take place in many formats and in cooperation with galleries, art spaces, museums, cinemas, festivals and universities. The platform, which was established in 2012, focuses on artists in Switzerland and is headed by Bruno Z'Graggen, Zurich.

More information: <https://brunoZgraggen.ch/video-window>

## Project Partners

Kunsthalle Luzern, Michael Sutter

<https://kunsthalle-luzern.ch>

stattkino Luzern, Peter Leimgruber

<https://www.stattkino.ch>

Kunstraum Walcheturm, Patrick Huber

<https://www.walcheturm.ch>

Stadtkino Basel, Beat Schneider

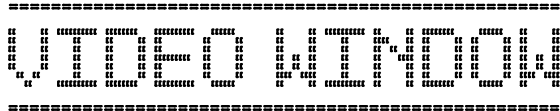
<https://www.stadtkinobasel.ch>

## Financial Support

Kunsthalle Luzern, LuzernPlus, Stadt Zürich Kultur, Kanton Basel-Stadt Kultur, Stadt Thun, Swisslos – Kultur Kanton Bern, Jacqueline Spengler Stiftung, Temperatio Stiftung, Stanley Thomas Johnson Stiftung, Markant-Stiftung, Gottfried und Ursula Schächli-Jecklin Stiftung, Dr. Georg und Josi Guggenheim-Stiftung, Stiftung Erna und Curt Burgauer, Casimir Eigensatz Stiftung

## Contact for More Information and Visual Material

Bruno Z'Graggen, Curator, VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich: [contact@brunoZgraggen.ch](mailto:contact@brunoZgraggen.ch)



## ***Thrill Me. The Power & Magic of Music in Video Art***

### **Media Images: A Selection of Nine Video Stills**

The following nine video stills are available as media images and can be provided upon request.



**01**

**UNA SZEEMANN**

*THRILL ME*, 2004

SD NTSC, colour, sound, E, 6:06 min., 4:3

© Una Szeemann, courtesy the artist and videoart.ch,  
Zofingen



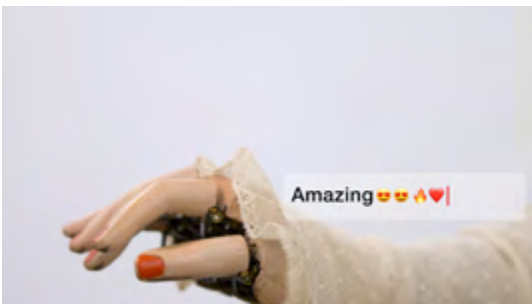
**02**

**AKOSUA ADOMA OWUSU**

*KING OF SANWI*, 2020

Film & video, colour, sound, E, 7 min., 4:3

© Akosua Adoma Owusu, courtesy the artist



**03**

**COLLECTIF\_FACT**

*HOW TO BECOME A THING*, 2023

Video HD, colour, sound, E/F/e/f, 10:20 min., 16:9

© collectif\_fact, courtesy the artists and Wilde Gallery, Geneva



**04**

**JANNIK GIGER**

*BLIND AUDITION*, 2022

Video HD, colour, sound, G/E/e/g, 21:50 min., 16:9

© Jannik Giger, courtesy the artist



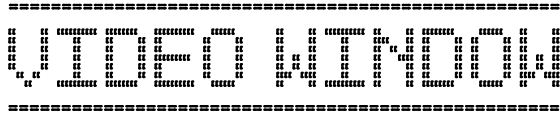
**05**

**GRACE NDIRITU**

*THE NIGHTINGALE*, 2003

SD PAL, colour, sound, 7 min., 4:3

© Grace Ndiritu, courtesy the artist and LUX, London



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**06**

**HALIL ALTINDERE**

*BALLERINAS AND POLICE*, 2017

Video HD, colour, sound, 9:39 min., 16:9

© Halil Altindere, courtesy the artist and Pilot Galeri, Istanbul



**07**

**JIWON CHOI**

*PARALLEL*, 2017

Video HD, colour, sound, KOR/E/e, 29:51 min., 16:9

© Jiwon Choi, courtesy the artist



**08**

**QUYNH DONG**

*SWEET NOËL*, 2013

Video HD, animation, colour, sound, VNM, 7:39 min., 16:9

© Quynh Dong, courtesy the artist



**09**

**DOMINIK STAUCH**

*COAST TO COAST*, 2018

Video HD, colour, sound, 6:14 min., 16:9

© Dominik Stauch, courtesy the artist and Galerie Bernhard Bischoff & Partner, Bern