

Revolt Against the Sun!

**Next Generation 2025 Graduation Exhibition Bachelor and Master
Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW**

Kunsthaus Baselland

Press preview Thur 28 August 2024, 11.30 am

Opening Fri 29 August 2025, 5 – 9 pm

Exhibition 30 August – 14 September 2025

Finissage Sun 14 September 2025, 3 – 5 pm

Maria Paz Aires, Alondra, Isabelle Benvenuti, Delphine Claire Bertrand, Emily Besel, Lenn Bjoerk, Á. Birna Björnsdóttir, Louie Blaser, Emma Bonven, Adraâ Anna Boukharta, Selina Camenzind, Brenda Brigitte Dell'Anna, Fanny Adriana Dunning, Lena Anika Ellenberger, Nora Aliena Friedlin, Niko Fuchs, Max Gisel, Nisha Greisser, Tim Heiniger, Alyona Hrekova, Dominik Ittin, Tina Janiashvili, Nico Jenni, Ramon Keimig, Lizz Keller, Robert Kirov, Riccy Kuno, Marc Lohri, Nolan Lucidi, Lisa Mazenauer, Ruowen Mei (左牽羊), Anastasia Müller, Noa Nola, Anyali Oviedo Castillo, Rondi Park, Irene Rainer, Linus Finn Riegger, Estéfana Román Matesanz, Léna Romand Lacrabère, Marilola Peter Saba, Barbara Signer, Yann Slattery, Thy Truong, Linus Weber, Valie Winter, Julie/Julot Wuhrmann, Chi-Hun Yang, Hsiao-Yen Yao, Ilja Zaharov

Curated by Margaux Bonopera and Chus Martínez
Curatorial Assistance: Emily Harries; Press: Anna Francke

Program

Opening: Friday 29 August 2025, 5 – 9 pm

5.15 pm welcoming and introduction by Ines Goldbach, Margaux Bonopera and Chus Martínez
Followed by performances by Delphine Claire Bertrand and Emma Bonven

Finissage: Sun 14 September 2025, 3 – 5 pm

With performances by Nico Jenni and Yann Slattery

Guided tours (German)

Sat 30 August 2025, 12.30 pm, curator's tour with Margaux Bonopera (English)

Sun 31 August 2025, 12 pm

Sun 31 August 2025, 2 pm, family sunday with walk-in studio

Tue 2 September 2025, 12.15 pm, guided tour with lunch*

Sun 7 September 2025, 11 am, Sunday Matinee with breakfast* and guided tour at 12 pm*

Thur 11 September 2025, 6.30 pm

*Registration required: office@kunsthausbaselland.ch

More information:
dertank.ch/diplom-2025

Kunsthaus Baselland

Helsinki-Str. 5, 4142 Münchenstein/Basel

office@kunsthausbaselland.ch kunsthausbaselland.ch

Opening hours: Tue – Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Thur 11 am – 8 pm, Sat/Sun 11 am – 5 pm

During Kunsttage Basel: 30 – 31 August 2025 11 am – 6 pm

The galleries are wheelchair accessible (entry: Helsinki-Strasse).

The exhibition is part of the graduation event series *NEXT Generation 2025* of the HGK Basel FHNW and the Kunsttage Basel (29 – 31 August 2025).
nextgeneration.hgk.fhnw.ch kunsttagebasel.ch

KUNSTHAUS BASELLAND

With *Revolt Against the Sun!*, this year's graduation exhibition of the bachelor and master students, the Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW becomes the guest of the Kunsthhaus Baselland for the tenth time. The presentation of new works by nearly 50 emerging artists continues the long-term collaboration at the Kunsthhaus Baselland, located in the immediate vicinity of the Campus Dreispitz of the HGK Basel FHNW since 2024. To emphasize the special nature of a graduation exhibition in a leading art institution and in the education of artists, who are transitioning from the sensitive environment of the art academy to the challenges of working as professional artists, each year a renowned guest curator is invited to curate the exhibition together with Chus Martínez, head of the Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW. Our 2025 guest is Margaux Bonopera, independent curator and head of exhibitions at the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles.

The title of this year's graduation exhibition refers to Iraqi author Nazik al-Mala'ika (1923 – 2007). Her poem *Revolt Against the Sun* (Thawra `ala al-shams) was published in 1947, and in 2020 an English anthology with the same title was released featuring 32 of her key poems, spanning over decades of her work. In the oeuvre of Nazik al-Mala'ika *Revolt Against the Sun* means a revolt against imposed meaning, dominance, and inadvertently established conformity. There is no common subject that unites the exhibition as such, but the fact that all the works created by the participating artists—third-year bachelor and second-year master—embody a will to address the current states of our minds and bodies. All are concerned with how we can deal with the deep turbulences caused by war, climate crisis, inequality, digital alienation, identity fragmentation, and chronic anxiety. Can art offer some solace in this situation? Can we regain a sense of the self that can defy and contest the notions of the self constantly proposed by social media or the mainstream discourses on automated labor and the tasks machines are going to take away from us? Can art contribute to regaining peace?

What is interesting is that no sadness or sense of defeat runs through the exhibition and the works. From the current misery, artists and their artistic practices emerged not joyful but sober, able to face the trouble and invest in the different works as ways of gaining insight on some important issues:

- Emotions circulate through our bodies; we carry those emotions and share them, even without noticing them. Therefore, it seems fundamental to circulate positive emotions and experiences of hope that may motivate change.
- We need to move beyond the Modernist and colonial ideas of the individual human. Our bodies are not isolated and also not entirely passive. Technology is not there to shape us, we are also there to shape, modify, and adapt it to our current needs and values.
- Trauma, pain, and mental health are not only personal circumstances but ways of dealing with overwhelming processes that affect all of us as a group, community, and society.
- Also, art and artistic practice offer an incredible counterbalance to the toxic positivity of privately owned media. Art still embodies the common good, the public realm, the arena where we can openly discuss the future of our worlds.

The works presented in *Revolt Against the Sun!* are very different in the artistic languages used. The Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW does not encourage a single way of working, but the development of an eloquent and unique tongue in each case. What is fundamental to understand is the effort these young artists have undertaken in producing these new works: their trust in the democratic guarantees that define art as a right, a fundamental right that enhances our lives and our possibilities of reconnection to the collective spirit, opening pre-political spaces for thought and healthy dissent.

We extend our gratitude to the team of the Kunsthhaus Baselland for the collaboration and for hosting our graduation exhibition for the tenth time. We would also like to thank the team of the Institute Art Gender Nature HGK Basel FHNW—lecturers, mentors, technical, scientific, administrative, and production staff—for their guidance and engagement, and, last but not least, we thank all artists for their brilliant works, their trust in us and themselves, and the continuous exchange.

Chus Martínez

Margaux Bonopera has been an independent curator and head of exhibitions at the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles since 2018. A graduate of the École du Louvre in Paris (2014) and holder of a master's degree in curating from the Royal College of Art in London (2017), she has worked with cultural institutions such as the Galerie Sultana in Arles and Paris, Mécènes du Sud in Montpellier-Sète-Béziers, ésban École supérieure des beaux-arts de Nîmes, or Capc Musée d'art contemporain Bordeaux. She regularly writes texts for artists, institutions, and galleries. In 2024, she was curator-in-residence with Jean-Baptiste Carobolante at the Maison Populaire in Montreuil. She is currently working on a double exhibition around the work of the artist Adrien Fregosi for spring 2026.

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T W E A K L A B

