

Emily Wardill

## Press release

### Emily Wardill | *Soft Spot*

21 May - 26 June 2021

Opening: Friday, 21 May, 11 am - 8 pm

A soft spot designates a liking, a peculiar weakness. A delicate, practically wistful affinity, it's a form of love that is neither fierce nor tragic, yet nonetheless possesses a certain vulnerability—an openness. A soft spot is a noun, perhaps it's even a space, a tender fondness for someone, something, or somewhere that you could locate within your body. We tend to have soft spots for things that are no longer there, for things we remember, and we hold this space open for their return.

Objects keep their secrets, spaces too. Emily Wardill's fourth exhibition with carlier | gebauer, entitled *Soft Spot*, gestures toward such secrets with the works *I gave my love a cherry that had no stone* (2016) and *Night For Day* (2020). In their portrayals of imagined realities, perhaps these films have a soft spot for each other, holding open space for the past to imagine the future—and vice versa.

Shot in the lobby of the Gulbenkian museum in Lisbon, a lone figure glides through the luscious surfaces and rich wooden paneling of the building's modernist architecture in *I gave my love a cherry that had no stone*. In the early moments of the film, each time the man turns to meet the camera's gaze, it suddenly pivots away, as if refusing human contact. A duet of sorts between man and machine, we see one becoming the other: at times the man's spectral presence stutters and glitches while the camera's smooth panning movements lapse into a faulty sentience. Looped on a large, tilted screen suspended from the ceiling, the film takes on a sculptural quality that destabilizes the act of viewing.

Wardill's most recent film *Night For Day* (2020) draws upon interviews with Isabel do Carmo, co-leader of the Revolutionary Brigades who fought against the fascist regime in Portugal that fell in 1974, and two young men running a machine learning start up in Lisbon. In the artist's words, the film “*think about what would happen if a communist revolutionary gave birth to a techno utopian, if gender as performativity was thought through the lens of women making the political decision to live clandestinely in Portugal for a large part of the twentieth century and if the ‘Last Woman’ were the fembot from The Tales of Hoffman.*”

**Emily Wardill** lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal. Her film *Night for Day* was recently awarded the European Media Art Festival prize. Wardill has had solo exhibitions at Secession, Vienna; Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg; La Loge, Brussels; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen; National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen; The Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; the Serpentine Gallery, London; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; De Appel, Amsterdam; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge. Group exhibitions include the 19th Biennale of Sydney; Tate Britain, London; Tate Modern, London; MUMOK, Vienna; The Venice Biennale; MOCA, Miami; Kunsthalle Basel; Kunstverein Stuttgart; ICA, London; OCA, Oslo and the Witte de With, Rotterdam. Wardill's work has been included in numerous publications including *Afterall*, *Art in America*, *Art Review*, *Artforum*, *Flash Art*, *Frieze*, and *The New York Times*. She teaches at Malmö Art Academy.

Emily Wardill

*I GAVE MY LOVE A CHERRY THAT HAD NO STONE (2016)*



Emily Wardill, I gave my love a cherry that had no stone, 2016  
digital video, 9 min

<https://vimeo.com/447101014> password: cherry16

Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021

carlier | gebauer



Emily Wardill, I gave my love a cherry that had no stone, 2016  
digital video, 9 min

<https://vimeo.com/447101014> password: cherry16

Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021

carlier | gebauer



Emily Wardill, I gave my love a cherry that had no stone, 2016  
digital video, 9 min  
<https://vimeo.com/447101014> password: cherry16



Emily Wardill, I gave my love a cherry that had no stone, 2016  
digital video, 9 min  
<https://vimeo.com/447101014> password: cherry16

carlier | gebauer

Emily Wardill

*NIGHT FOR DAY* (2020)



Emily Wardill, Day for Night, 2020  
digital video, 47.19 min  
<https://vimeo.com/466180524> password: Wardill

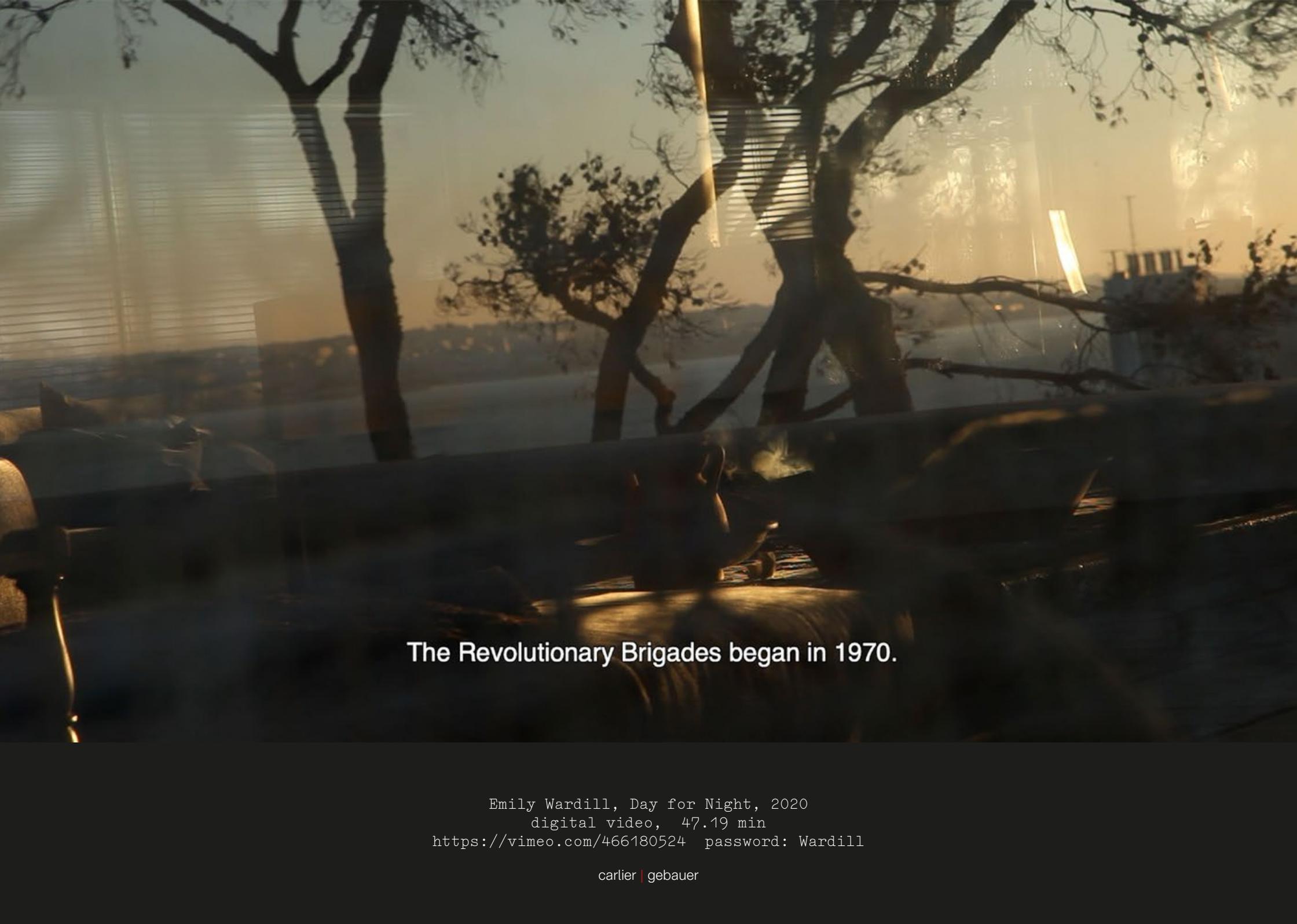
Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2021

carlier | gebauer



Emily Wardill, Day for Night, 2020  
digital video, 47.19 min  
<https://vimeo.com/466180524> password: Wardill

carlier | gebauer



The Revolutionary Brigades began in 1970.

Emily Wardill, Day for Night, 2020  
digital video, 47.19 min  
<https://vimeo.com/466180524> password: Wardill

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Emily Wardill, Day for Night, 2020  
digital video, 47.19 min  
<https://vimeo.com/466180524> password: Wardill

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1



Emily Wardill  
I gave my love a cherry that  
had no stone, 2016  
digital video  
9 min  
2/5 + 2 AP  
EW/2016/vid/18570

18.000,00 € excl. VAT

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2



Emily Wardill  
Night for Day, 2020  
1 channel video installation  
48min  
1/5+2AP  
3/5+2AP  
EW/2020/vid/21392

18.000,00 € excl. VAT

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Emily Wardill

*Further selected works*



Emily Wardill, Crimp, 2016  
resin cast relief, 80 x 70 cm, edition of 2 + 2 AP

carlier | gebauer

БАНГО МИНАС  
МИГUEL SILVA  
ЛОЎО БОНИТО  
РУБЕН ФРЕЙЛАС  
ЛИЗА МОЛА  
CRISTINA REGADAS  
МАЛНАТИЕ АНБЕК  
ЕДБ  
СПЕЦИАЛ ДНАИКС ЛО



Emily Wardill, Rat, 2017  
Rayogram, 126 x 143 cm

carlier | gebauer



Emily Wardill, Kira, 2018  
from the series Children or animals  
marbling on paper, 31,5 x 32,5 cm, unique



Emily Wardill, Things keep their secrets, 2018  
from the series Children or animals  
marbling on paper, 39,5 x 30 cm, unique



Emily Wardill, This is the land with no path, 2018  
from the series Children or animals  
marbling on paper, 49 x 11,5 cm, unique, EW/2018/dra/20073

1		Emily Wardill Credits 2, 2013 Rayogramm 170 x 96 cm Unikat EW/2012/pho/11910	14.000,00 € excl. VAT
2		Emily Wardill Crimp, 2016 resin cast relief 76,2 x 61,6 x 7,6 cm Ed. 1/2 EW/2016/scu/17725	13.000,00 € excl. VAT
3		Emily Wardill Rat, 2017 Rayogram 126 x 143 cm EW/2017/pho/18509	12.000,00 € excl. VAT
4		Emily Wardill Kira, 2018 from the series Children or animals marbling on paper 31,5 x 32,5 cm unique EW/2018/dra/20068	4.500,00 € excl. VAT
5		Emily Wardill Things keep their secrets, 2018 from the series Children or animals marbling on paper 39,5 x 30 cm unique EW/2018/dra/20069	4.500,00 € excl. VAT
6		Emily Wardill This is the land with no path, 2018 from the series Children or animals marbling on paper 49 x 11,5 cm unique EW/2018/dra/20073	3.500,00 € excl. VAT