

IN TOUCH - a visual dialogue

Highlights from the Project

23 March - 25 April 2020

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23.03.-25.04.2020

Instagram Artists Takeover

#InTouchAVisualDialogue

Five weeks ago our artist Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania wrote to us and suggested we circumvent lock downs and social distancing by initiating an exchange between our artists and other artists online. This was the inspiration behind *IN TOUCH - a visual dialogue*, which saw one of our gallery artists take over our social media for one week and invite another artist for a virtual exchange. Anything and everything goes, live, interactive and on our Instagram account.

The project started with **Edi Rama** who has to manage the crisis from the confines of his home, and New York based Swedish artist **Mia Enell** (b.1967, Sweden). Albanian prime minister and artist Edi Rama instigated the inaugural week of #InTouchAVisualDialogue exchanging daily drawings with fellow New York artist Mia Enell. Covering urgent government COVID-19 briefings, Rama's abstract doodles connected with Enell's subtle, poetic, funny and at times morbid drawings.

"I loved working on these drawings and then see what Edi posted. The visual dialogue was a blessing as it brought another dimension to this stressful week full of unknowns." Mia Enell, New York, March 2020

It was followed by **Pakui Hardware**, who invited Paris based artist duo **Ittah Yoda** - founded in 2015 by Kai Yoda (Japanese-Swedish) and Virgile Ittah (French-Italian-North African), to exchange works and their daily lockdown routines. There was a dialogue between Vilnius and Paris. Locked down and unable to produce new works they went back to their archive and their studios and created a visual dialogue with the existing works shedding a new light on them. Pakui Hardware led the conversation with images that re-staged the works in their studio, opening the conversation with small quotes that reflected on the current situation, Ittah Yoda followed the dialogue with their archival images of their works, as they were not able to leave their apartment in Paris for the strict health restrictions. The dialogue was a poetic exchange, a time capsule that captured the suspension of time and it mapped, in a way, the different stages Europe finds itself within the COVID crisis: one duo can still access their studio, the other lives vicariously through the other and their archive.

Week #3 has seen friends and colleagues **Asta Gröting** and **Heiner Franzen** engaged in a visual exchange. Their dialogue has been going on for many years, sharing studios in close proximity in Wedding Berlin at the Uferhallen, showing alongside each other in various exhibitions and discussing their work and practice on a regular basis. Social distancing measures didn't hold this dialogue back and so via their phones and computers they gathered the material in unison to offer us a glimpse into their thought and making processes. The artists chose to show videos, the making of works and behind the scene footage, allowing us to see exclusive moments in the making of their work. Last week the invisible has been made visible, and a long and ongoing dialogue between two friends has been shared with all of us.

carlier | gebauer's Instagram was then taken over by **Dor Guez** who invited a different person each day to be *in touch* with him and reflect on his work and the art world in general. The guests were: the artist **Robin Rhode**, **Locus Athens**, the Greece-based art organization directed by Maria Thalia Carras and Olga Hatzidaki, **Vivian Gandelman**, an independent contemporary art researcher and project consultant, the artist **Jaro Varga** and finally **Ami Barak**, curator, art critic and advisor. Following each post, this diverse dialogue gave us the chance to have a more personal understanding of Guez's work starting with his own archival projects on the Palestinian diaspora and the research on his family history.

During the final week of *IN TOUCH - a visual dialogue*, we saw **Erik Schmidt** wandering around the city with his friend and colleague **Gregor Hildebrandt**. They met other artists, friends and visited studios and opened up the visual dialogue by bringing together a fun and diverse mix of characters. They even went to galleries and the construction site of the future Wemhöner Collection in Kreuzberg, of course always with the right amount of distance and protection. They switched from live to funny portrait photos illustrating the opening up of recent lockdown the city was under, giving us back a sense of normality. With their strolls they are ending our *IN TOUCH* series and maybe shedding a light onto what the next future in the art world will look like: a lot of walks and nice chats one on one.



Edi Rama, Untitled, 2020
mixed media, 29,7 x 21 cm

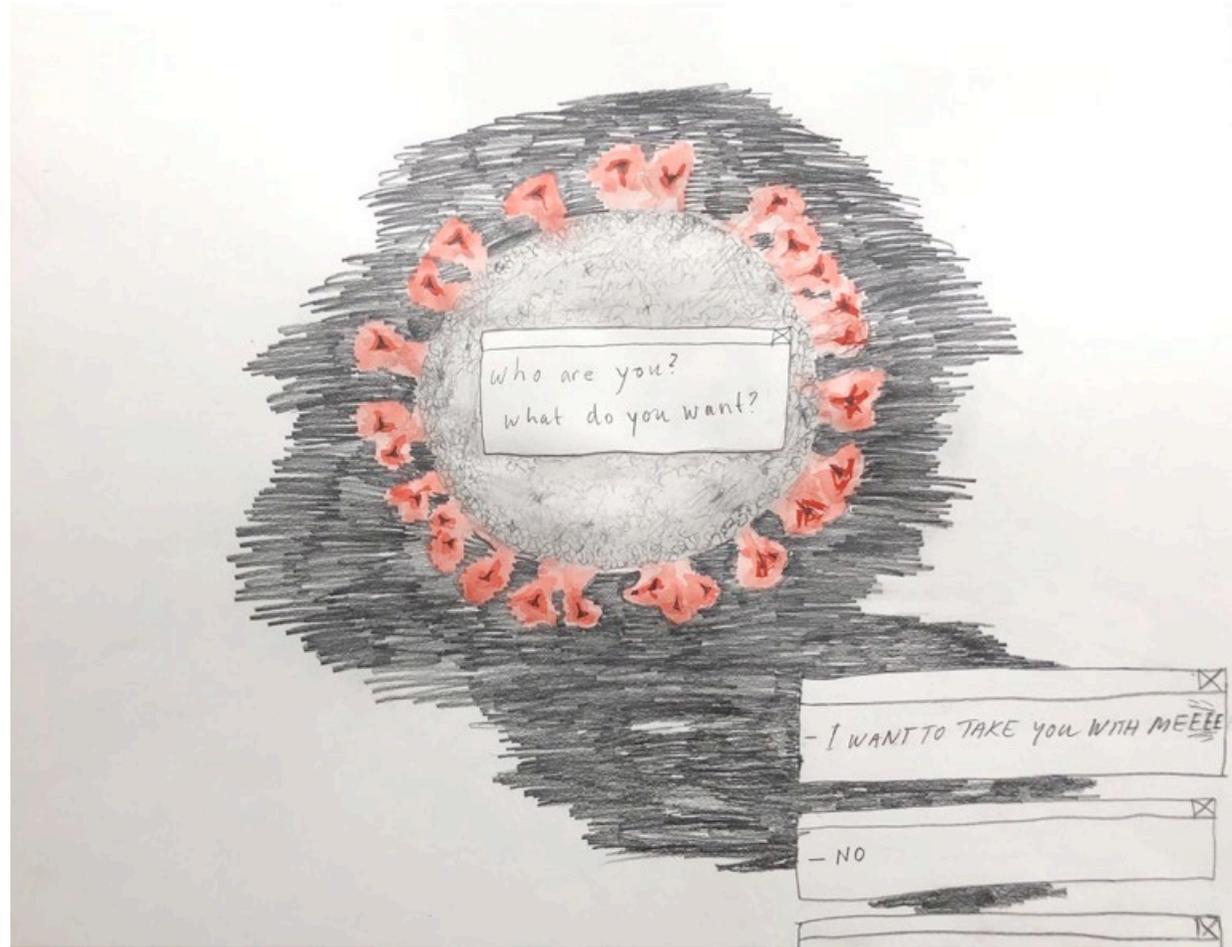


Mia Enell, Splitbed, 2019
acrylic on canvas, 190 x 234 cm

Week #1: Edi Rama | Mia Enell



Edi Rama, Untitled, 2020
mixed media, 29,7 x 21 cm



Mia Enell, Who are you? What do you want?, 2020
paper, pencil, watercolourprinted document, watercolour, 28 x 35,5 cm



Week #2: Pakui Hardware | Ittah Yoda

Pakui Hardware, Avider of Disorder, 2019
Glass, silicone with chia seeds
21 x 21 x 21 cm and 21 x 21 x 20 cm



Ittah Yoda, Sillia, 2020
polyurethane, thermochromic pigment,
powder coated aluminium, 270 x 56 x 42 cm



Pakui Hardware, Underbelly (detail), 2019
mixed media installation, dimensions variable



Itt'ah Yoda, Elio, 2019
polyurethane, thermal pigment, polyamide, 22 x 27 x 35 cm



Week #3: Asta Gröting | Heiner Franzen

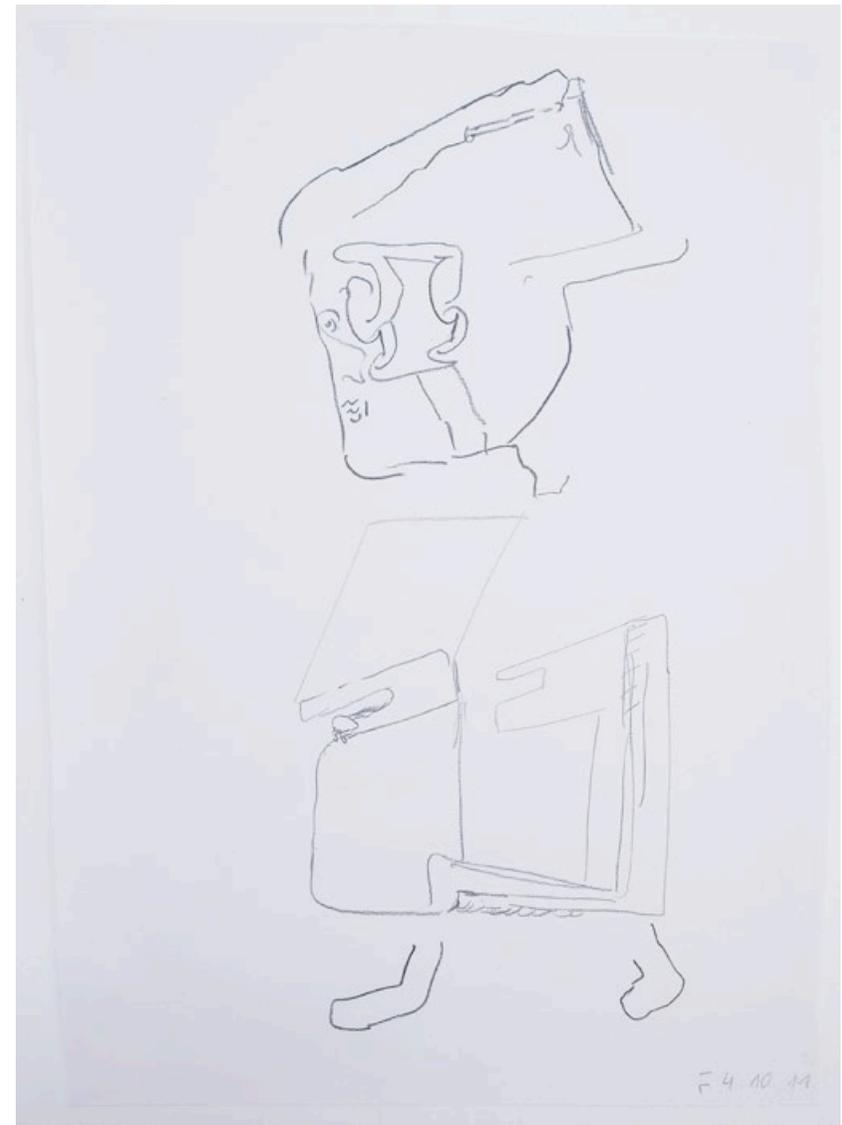
Asta Gröting, TOUCH, 2015
single channel 4K video projection, 16 min
35 sec excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/411330211>

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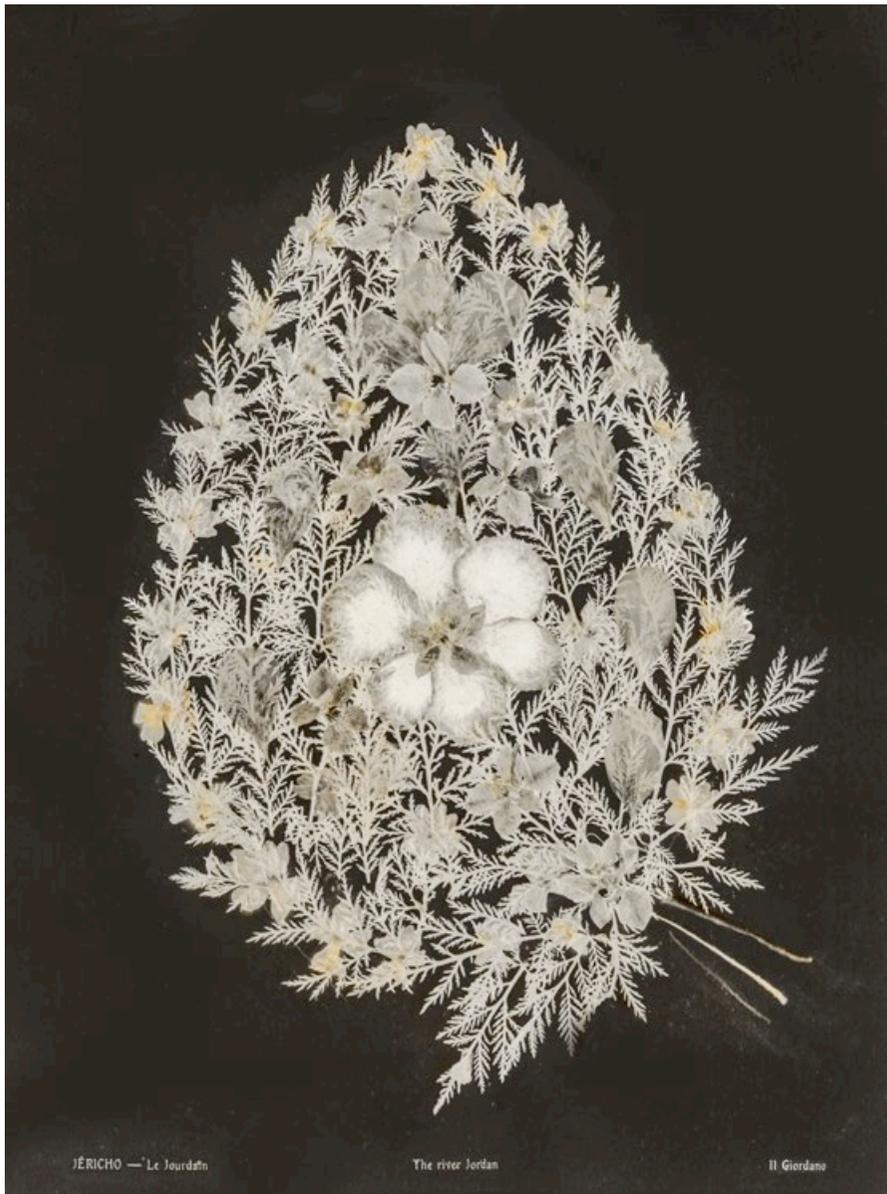
Heiner Franzen, Real Conversation
digital video
<https://vimeo.com/411331683>



Asta Gröting, Loch mit Armen, 1995



Heiner Franzen, Mamas Trick, 2011



Dor Guez, Lilies of the field #2, Jericho, the river Jordan, 2018
archival inkjet print, 27 x 21,5 cm



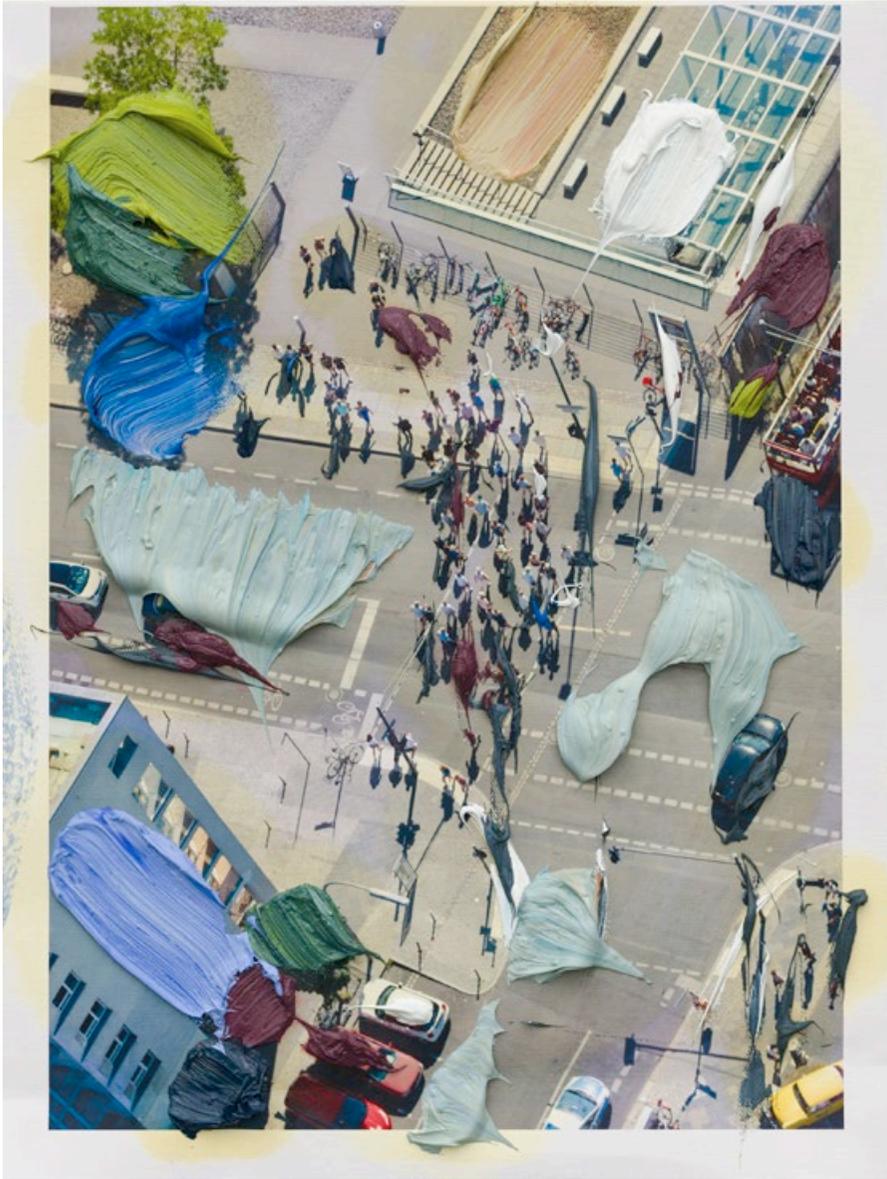
Robin Rhode, Palm, 2019
from a set of five c-prints



Week #4: Dor Guez | various Guests

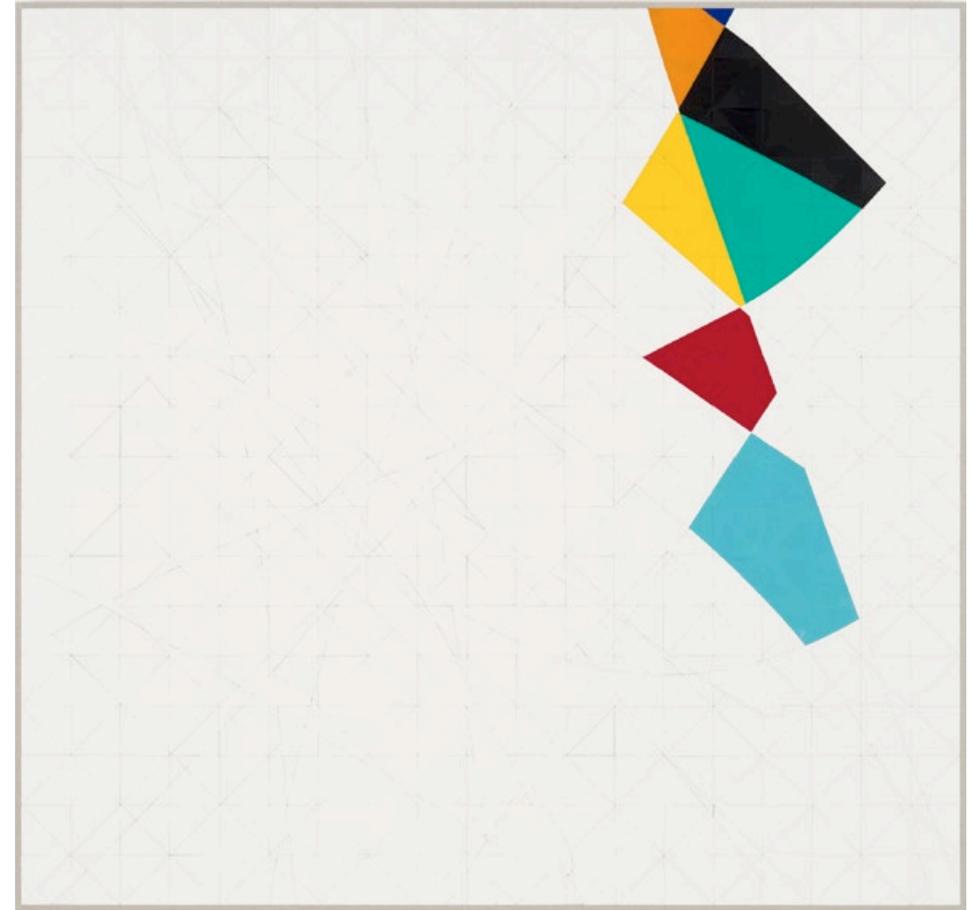
Dor Guez, Samira, 2020, archival inkjet print, 145 x 112 cm

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Week #5: Erik Schmidt | Gregor Hildebrandt

Erik Schmidt, Topographie, 2019
Oil on Fine Art print on canvas, 40,5 x 27,5 cm



Gregor Hildebrandt, Please don't fall in (P//R), 2020
cut vinyl records, canvas, wood, 144 x 152 cm

