

Press Release
Special Exhibition

01.03.2018

colony
09.03. – 15.04.2018



video installation *Raskol's Axe* (2013) by artist collective İyi Saatte Olsunlar (Istanbul).

colony is a group exhibition by the Ankara-based LGBTIQ* association, Kaos GL, which brings together contemporary artistic inquiries that deal with the social norms of binaries and dichotomies, and constructs a queer utopia. Despite severe political reprisals in Turkey, held between the dates 23 December, 2017 - 3 February, 2018 in Istanbul, colony was composed by the artists and participants; Yavuz Erkan, Ursula Mayer, Nilbar Güreş, Erinç Seymen & Uğur Engin Deniz, Daria Martin, Gökçe Yiğitel, Mary Maggic, İris Ergül, Katja Novitskova, Furkan Öztekin, Dynasty Handbag, Aykan Safoğlu, İz Öztat and Zişan, Kerem Ozan Bayraktar, Mariah Garnett, Umut Yıldırım, Yasemin Nur and Let the Good Times Roll. The exhibition was corporealised by the curation of Kevser Güler, Derya Bayraktaroğlu and Aylime Aslı Demir.

Shortly before the opening of the exhibition in the cities of both Istanbul and Ankara, on 15 November, 2017, the government of Ankara established a general ban on all LGBTIQ*-

related events and public activities in the capital city, which includes the activities of Kaos GL. For this reason, Kaos GL was forced to withdraw any institutional support for the exhibition project. As this was a highly publicized project, Kaos GL wanted to prevent a precedent and feared tightening of bans in Istanbul and other cities.

colony brings the definition of 'human' into question. The exhibition critically engages with the means of making knowledge, science, technology, and politics that privilege the human species by attributing life entirely to mankind. By the agency of intimating a body and body-beings, it brings together a gathering of artistic inquiries that deliberate constructed dichotomies such as human/non-human, nature/culture, and organic/synthetic. Across moralism(s), and female-male morphologies stuck in procreation, colony also explores the constitutive ways in which nature's sanctions of normativity operate. Interfaced with discussions around language and gender, the exhibition probes the present-day bearings of evading human-centred narratives, which are derived from and self-constituted with the alliance of culture-history-society-power. Through the scope of post-human and queer critique kinship, colony embodies a myriad of offerings that discuss such narratives.

By expressing its solidarity with sister organisation, Kaos GL, Schwules Museum is presenting a comprehensive selection from the exhibition colony. Curated by Derya Bayraktaroğlu and Aylime Aslı Demir, and realized by the support and the companionship of the artist Aykan Safoğlu, Schwules Museum edition of colony will be held from 9 March to 15 April, 2018 as a part of the Year of the Women in the Museum.

The exhibition project colony is kindly supported by SAHA Derneği and Sivil Düşün.

Colony opens on **09 March, 7 pm** at Schwules Museum.

Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

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