

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press release



The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents on February 19, 2021

Alex Reynolds:

There Is a Law, There Is a Hand, There Is a Song

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Alex Reynolds. There is a Law, There is a Hand, There is a Song

- Dates: February 19–June 13, 2021
- Curator: Manuel Cirauqui
- Film & Video gallery (103)

From February 19 to June 13, 2021, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao will be presenting *Alex Reynolds. There is a Law, There is a Hand, There is a Song*, the first exhibition of 2021 in the Film & Video gallery, a space that the Museum reserves for key works in video art, film, and the artistic languages associated with the moving image.

This time, three recent works by Alex Reynolds (b. 1978, Bilbao) will be featured. Reynolds is known for her constant exploration of our modes of relation and affection, especially in their manifestations through cinematic language. The work *The Hand that Sings* (2021), recently co-produced by the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, will be shown in an international premiere in the main gallery as part of this exhibition.

Created by Reynolds in collaboration with Swedish choreographer Alma Södeberg, *The Hand that Sings* builds a web of connecting gestures, voices, and images in time. These elements seem to mimic each other in open sequences and chain reactions: from the almost ritual-like extraction of oak bark in Extremadura during the annual cork harvest, to the act of peeling an orange before a small fire or the act of washing someone's hand; from the tremor of leaves to the trembling of a voice, along with the flapping of a bird's wings in the distance or again, the feedback loop between the performer's chant and hand movements. Words in Spanish and English are traded on a rooftop as we get a glimpse of the Palace of Justice in the Brussels skyline. *The Hand that Sings* is an evocative, sensorial work that focuses on details and contemplation. Bodies, the landscape, and the camera act in reciprocal harmony.

The film *Palais* (2020), filmed at the Palace of Justice in Brussels, an impressive work of architecture from the early 19th century, consists of a walkthrough of the building's labyrinthine administrative facilities, alternating monumental spaces, narrow hallways, abandoned offices, walls covered in graffiti, and sinister elevators. The camera follows a hand that opens doors, touches walls, and pushes buttons, filming different spaces in a disturbing atmosphere. The movement of the camera suggests mixed emotions of uncanny trepidation, curiosity, and even mischievous humor. It is a silent tour in which the ambient sounds, the artist's steps, opening doors, the elevator's almost violent mechanism, and the uncanny murmur of voices in the distance come to the fore.

The third work in this installation, *Justine* (2020), consists of a tuning fork that vibrates in the air almost imperceptibly. A tuning fork is a fork-shaped metal implement that is traditionally used to fine-tune

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

musical instruments. In this case, the piece has been custom-made to alter its standard purpose, so it evokes the exact voice pitch of a person known to the artist, after whose name—Justine—the work is titled. Alex Reynolds's work is characterized by an ambitious manipulation of filmic language and an interest in exploring the relations between its key elements: sound, rhythm, acting and storytelling, as well as the viewer's role in them. Through film, the artist plays with and alters the dominating structures and conventions of visual narration, defying our perception beyond the perimeter of the screen and the realm of images.

Alex Reynolds. Biography

Alex Reynolds (b. 1978, Bilbao) lives and works in Bilbao and Brussels. Her work combines multiple registers of performance and cinema, as well as installations, texts, photographs, and conceptual pieces. Her films are far from the clash between the structures of cinematic codes and narrative film. These two approaches coexist in her work, enabling the artist to use cinematic conventions as material for inquiring into the interpersonal.

Reynolds won a grant from the Akademie Schloss Solitude in 2013, as well as the Fine Arts Grant from the Botín Foundation in 2016 and "la Caixa" Foundation's Call for Productions in 2020. She is currently a visiting professor at KASK in Ghent and a member of the Social Acoustics/Communities in Movement research group. Her works have been exhibited at the Index Foundation (Stockholm), Hollybush Gardens (London), the Centre d'Art La Panera (Lleida), FRAC Lorraine (Metz), the Museum M (Leuven), the Galería Marta Cervera (Madrid), Tabakalera (Donostia/San Sebastián), CA2M (Madrid), the Syndicate (Cologne), the Bonniers Konsthall (Stockholm), the Joan Miró Foundation (Barcelona), and other spaces. Her films have been shown in movie theaters and festivals like FIDMarseille, Rencontres Internationales, the Aesthetica Film Festival (York, United Kingdom), and Cinematek (Brussels).

Film & Video (Gallery 103)

The Film & Video gallery features a program of exhibitions exclusively devoted to contemporary practices of the moving image, video art, and film-based media installation. Since it opened in 2014, this space has presented work by unique artists such as Christian Marclay, Ragnar Kjartansson, Fiona Tan, Ken Jacobs, Amie Siegel, Pierre Huyghe, Michael Snow, Javier Téllez, Diana Thater, Allora & Calzadilla, Jesper Just, and Jesse Jones. The program of the gallery begins in 2020 with this quintessential artist of film and video.

Encounters with artists: Alex Reynolds (February 18)

Artist and filmmaker Alex Reynolds will discuss her career and creative process with Manuel Cirauqui, curator of the Museum's Film & Video gallery program. Focusing on Reynolds's exhibition project, *There Is a Law, There Is a Hand, There Is a Song*, the conversation will specifically address *The Hand that Sings*, Reynolds's latest film premiering at the Museum.

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Cover image:

Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg

The Singing Hand (La mano que canta), 2021

Video screening, color, sound (production image), 22 minutes

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg

For more information:

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Marketing and Communications Department

Tel: +34 944 359 008

media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus

www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus

All information about the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is available at www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus (press room).

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press Images for
Alex Reynolds. There is a Law, There is a Hand, There is a Song
Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Online Photo Service for Press Images

At the press area (prensa.guggenheim-bilbao.eus/en) you can register and download high resolution images and videos featuring the exhibitions and the building. Sign in to get access. If you are already a user, log in here (you need your username and password).

For further information, please contact the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Press Department: tel. +34 944 359 008 and email: media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus

Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg

The Singing Hand (La mano que canta), 2021

Video screening, color, sound (production image), 22 minutes

Courtesy of the artists and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg



Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg

The Singing Hand (La mano que canta), 2021

Video screening, color, sound (production image), 22 minutes

Courtesy of the artists and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg



Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg

The Singing Hand (La mano que canta), 2021

Video screening, color, sound (production image), 22 minutes

Courtesy of the artists and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds & Alma Söderberg



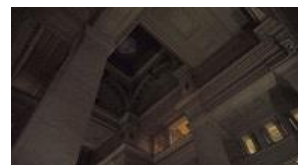
Alex Reynolds

Palais, 2020

Video HD, color, sound, 35 minutes

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds



Alex Reynolds

Justine, 2021

Customized tuning fork, electronics, steel, and wood

Courtesy of the artist and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid

© Alex Reynolds

