

Something between us

March 15 until June 29, 2025

GfZK Neubau

Opening: Friday, March 14, 2025, 7 pm

Press preview: Friday, March 14, 2025, 11 am

With Rodrigo Alcocer de Garay, Paule Hammer, Lauren Lee McCarthy,

Moritz Liebig, Johanna Maj Schmidt

Curated by Franciska Zólyom with Hanar Hupka

Graphic design: Hannah Witte and Maja Redlin

As human beings, we belong to various social networks. Relationships with others are a fundamental human need, but they can also place constraints on us or even make us vulnerable. Based on our interests, experiences, feelings or beliefs, we enter into connections with others or distance ourselves from them. Digital media influence who we come in contact with and how we communicate with one another. Algorithms and filters influence our perception, although we are not really aware of how they work. They create connections between people who are supposedly like-minded, and offer various different ways of interacting. How do direct encounters differ from virtual connections? What forms of closeness, belonging and loneliness arise? The exhibition *Something between us* addresses these questions in a series of works including drawings, painting, photography and video installations. The artists who have been invited to participate examine the assumptions and expectations that underlie our relationships and how an individual's position and behaviour can change depending on their environment.

Biographies

Rodrigo Alcocer de Garay lives in Leipzig. He works with image archives, engages with analogue and digital image cultures and explores the medium of photography using specially developed techniques. De Garay studied architecture and photography in Mexico and Germany. In 2024, he completed a master class at the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig.

Paule Hammer lives in Leipzig. In 2004 he graduated in a master class by Sighard Gille. From 2010 he worked as a lecturer at the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig. He has been teaching at the Kunsthochschule Kassel since 2024. Inspired by the chronicles of the world, he creates large-scale installations, textile and paper works. These works also include his "relationship pictures", in which he depicts networks in his environment. He has exhibited at the Museum der Bildenden Künste Leipzig, the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden and the Kunstverein Göttingen, among others.

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Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst

Museum of Contemporary Art

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Moritz Liebig lives in Dresden. He studied sculpture and other media at the Dresden University of Fine Arts. After graduating in 2010, he completed a graduate course with Martin Honert and Susanne Ring. He creates groups of sculptures using motifs and figures from comics, tourist kitsch, garden gnomes and souvenirs. His works are represented in the Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden (SKD), among others.

Johanna Maj Schmidt is an artist and social scientist. She studied political science in Bremen and art and politics at Goldsmiths University in London. In 2022 she graduated with Clemens von Wedemeyer (class expanded cinema) at the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig. In her artistic practice, she combines film, performance and painting to investigate the influence of online spheres on social coexistence. Schmidt works at the Else-Frenkel-Brunswick Institute for Democracy Research in Leipzig and is doing her doctorate in the research group “Rechtspopulismus – Autoritäre Entwicklungen, extrem-rechte Diskurse und demokratische Resonanzen” [Right-wing populism – authoritarian developments, extreme-right discourses and democratic resonances] at the Universities of Cologne and Leipzig on the question of how the heroic is expressed in right-wing internet memes.

Lauren Lee McCarthy lives and works in Los Angeles. She examines social relationships in the midst of automation, surveillance, and algorithmic living. In 2024, she was the recipient of the first Human AI Art Award, a joint initiative by Kunstmuseum Bonn and Deutsche Telekom that honours outstanding artistic performance at the interface between the visual arts and technology. Lauren’s work has been exhibited internationally, at places such as the Barbican Centre, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Haus der elektronischen Künste, Seoul Museum of Art. She earned an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she currently teaches as a Professor of Design Media Arts.

A selection of press images can be found here:

www.gfzk.de/press

We are happy to arrange interviews and tours of the exhibition with the curators:

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