

If This Then That

15/04/2022 - 03/05/2022

Shervin Kianersi Haghighi & Various Artists

If This Then That is a solo exhibition by Shervin Kianersi Haghighi (Shiraz, 1981), curated by the Various Artists collective (Rio de Janeiro, 1993). The exhibition is part of a long-term invitational project called Q&A, a series of collaborations initiated by Various Artists with fellow artists active in different fields of the art world.*

Shervin Kianersi Haghighi deconstructs works by Trudo Engels (Roeselare, 1962 - Dubrovnik, 2009) from the 1980s and 1990s by applying a series of actions that are part of her performative language.

When Shervin Kianersi Haghighi proposed to performatively “destroy” the early/archived works of Trudo Engels, Various Artists saw the opportunity to finally and definitively draw a line in the sand of the past. Although some of Engels’ works predicted the dawn of a fragmented future, hinting at multiple accounts with Drib-, Martaque- and Omandichana-like pieces, the singularity was on the verge of extinction.

In January 1993 in Rio de Janeiro, Cildo Meireles said to Trudo Engels: “What are you doing in the art world, heterosexual, white, male, European? Soon there will be no demand for you people. Get out!” Since then, the idea of a single, vertically oriented artist became more or less unattractive. Over the decade that followed, the fragmentation of “the artist” took root, the entity collapsed, and eventually resulted in the collective we now know as Various Artists.

The era of Western white male domination in art finally has come to an end, but many players in the art market have not received the memo. These are great times for WWM artists to reinvent themselves, to open up, make room for others and work collaboratively.

Shervin Kianersi Haghighi’s actions are poetically provocative, constantly infecting (or inspiring) V.A. to be the conceptual collective they are. Her performances question our Western attitude towards the preservation and archiving of contemporary art with its objectification of concepts and its desire to possess ideas. No idea is yours, no idea is safe! “Keep Cutting!”

Name Surname for Various Artists, Brussels 2022.

* previous Q&As:

i, Mango Discipline with Cildo Meireles, 2015

r, Metarealism with Dirk De Vos, 2020

z, Human Mathematics with Sarah Cale, 2021

future Q&As:

b, with Steven Jouwersma, 2022

D, with Alexandra Dementieva, 2022

35 - 00:34 min, 1 piece

4 - 02:20 min, no pieces

36 - 00:44 min, 2 pieces

5 - 01:36 min, no pieces

41 - 00:36 min, 6 pieces

28 - 00:28 min, no pieces

43 - 00:39 min, 4 pieces

14 - 02:07 min, no pieces

32 - 01:49 min, 2 pieces

7 - 03:10 min, 3 pieces

2 - 02:15 min, 1 piece

11 - 00:24 min, 2 pieces

33 - 00:58 min, 5 pieces

15 - 03:26 min, 8 pieces

42 - 00:35 min, 3 pieces

21 - 03:26 min, 8 pieces

34 - 00:38 min, 3 pieces

38 - 01:06 min, 4 pieces

37 - 01:38 min, 6 pieces

10 - 02:24 min, 6 pieces

13 - 01:24 min, 2 pieces

39 - 01:06 min, 1 piece

30 - 01:01 min, 3 pieces

18 - 01:35 min, 10 pieces

3 - 00:36 min, no pieces

17 - 00:57 min, no pieces

6 - 03:17 min, 14 pieces

25 - 00:42 min, 1 piece

23 - 05:02 min, 1 piece

26 - 00:25 min, 1 piece

1 - 02:16 min, no pieces

27 - 01:09 min, no pieces

9 - 01:25 min, 6 pieces

40 - 01:16 min, 6 pieces

12 - 07:55 min, 38 pieces

20 - 01:47 min, 3 pieces

16 - 01:52 min, 3 pieces

31 - 00:58 min, 3 pieces

19 - 01:10 min, 3 pieces

22 - 01:13 min, 8 pieces

29 - 00:59 min, 2 pieces

24 - 02:08 min, 5 pieces

8 - 02:02 min, 5 pieces