

Vanessa Billy
Where is Wild?

24 April > 20 June 2015

For her solo show at c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e, Swiss artist Vanessa Billy (°1978) focuses on materiality and mundane objects, to explore the disconnections and hidden causalities between man, environment, and technologies. To this effect, as is often the case in her practice, contrasting elements and materials, from the basic to the sophisticated, from the 'natural' to the synthetic, the mechanic to the electronic, the 'self-made' to the manufactured, are intimately assembled.

Throughout the exhibition, Billy's works surround the visitor, functioning as land-, sound-, and smellscape that convey a sense of mild menacing presence. The association of familiar yet unobtrusive slices of everyday life results in a concatenation of atmospheric envelopes of un/ease. The individual pieces vacillate between sculpture and installation, made up as they are of couplings sometimes straightforward, sometimes seemingly scrambled.

Billy plastically amplifies silent and less silent realities. She presents us not with a destructive, dead-end critique of our way of living – by unveiling the Truth to which we would be blind. Instead, her overt normative standpoint solicits us in the form of haptic and corporeal encounters with the deceptively obvious, accepted norms, impalpable presences and salient repudiation. Hence, Billy's pieces could be understood as works of 'explicitation'.

If we came to acknowledge the artificial as part of nature, what would that entail for our future prospects? Perhaps it would enable us to reorient our focus, from the Great Outside – the 'old wild' that has been dispelled with so much bravado over the last century, inert, docile wilderness awaiting to be tamed and mapped – to the many active, obstinate spheres by which we are enveloped, from the tiniest to the largest, with which a common destiny has to be composed. This would imply *taking care of*, while concurrently *being taken care of*, a new kind of 'wild'.

c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e asbl
varkensmarkt 10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium
info@c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e.com
www.c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e.com

This exhibition is supported by Pro Helvetia, Fondation suisse pour la culture.

c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e asbl is supported by Brasserie de la Senne and Little Miracles.