

Country SALTS, Remise

Opening Sunday, 9 June 2024, 10 PM  
Exhibition until 25 September 2024  
Country SALTS, Hof Strickmatt, Bennwil



**Sandra Knecht, Kira Lillie, Adeline Mollard, Manuela Morales Délano, Alan Sierra – Wabi Sabi**

**Curated by Samuel Leuenberger and Benedikt Wyss**

The exhibition inside the residency box of Country SALTS serves as a documentary and time stamp from where five artists and their curator spend five weeks last February at Casa Wabi, an artist residency program set on the beautiful coast of Oaxaca just north of Puerto Escondido. The show is meant to be enjoyed like a Wunderkammer or an intimate cabinet where the fruitful exchanges and creative bursts of production become visible.

Sandra Knecht (b. 1969), a fellow Baselland based artist, who uses cooking, among other things, as a central component of her artistic work. She exhibits her food happenings, installations, videos, and photographs as part of a larger investigation to what it means to call a place their home. In Mexico, she explored the land and its agriculture to gastronomic diversity, indigenous grain sorts and methods of distillation and food production. Her table at the center of the space lays out a range of objects she collected and add to her ever-growing archive of objects that inspire her everyday work.

American artist Kira Lillie (b. 1983), is the visionary founder of INCORP, an avant-garde brand that represents a unique amalgamation of fashion, art, and holistic wellness. Born into a world where the communal ethos and healing arts were the norm, she used the local kiln to make ceramic, tools of shells and drift wood, photographs of the surrounding landscape and highlighted her stay by staging her food performances based on non-animal products. For our Open Day at Hof Strickmatt she is curating a series of food performances but also presents the general food offerings as well as intervening in the Claudia Comte's Zigzag Bar.

Adeline Mollard (b. 1982), a graphic designer based in Zurich, went on the hunt for traditional printmakers in the region and found them rapidly in Oaxaca city and Puerto Escondido. Letter Press machines, silkscreen, manual typesetting and individual press mechanics become her world. She built her own wood tools and set up a little printing workshop using no artificial energy. She made a series of hand-made impressions on cotton sheets and translated six of the most famous recipes from the cooks of Casa Wabi into a logbook book of sorts printed in letterpress with a artisan of Oaxaca City.

Chilean but Basel based artist and curator, Manuela Morales Delano (b. 1986), prompts thinking and reflecting around the body, exploring its use as a creative instrument. She collected cactus spikes from around the land, and made visual exercises through direct printing or mono-printing, where the body was used as both a drawing tool and a printing plate, to delve into performative forms and image creation. The photographic "Self-portrait with Mamiya 645" and her spiky titt sculptures perform as body in the space.

Mexican artist Alan Sierra (b. 1990), is an artist and writer who frequently works as a curator, editor and educator. His body of work is made up from text, drawing, sculpture and performance that could be read as writing. His idea is to make an exlibris or bookplate for Casa Wabi with the drawing in the show. It would be an inkless stamp (intaglio) and ideally could be stamped inside the books that are part of the library. During his stay at Casa Wabi, he had the opportunity to read the books he brought with him, as well as some of the ones that he found there. His community project also involved reading aloud, giving tools for collective writing and editing to underrepresented groups.

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