
Anca Munteanu Rimnic, Valeria Heisenberg, Christina Dimitriadis and Felicitas Aga

Notions of Shelter

06.06.22 – 06.06.23

New Viewings #42 – Curated by Angela Rosenberg

New Viewings is a virtual space, a space in-between the real and the unreal. It has no restrictions and allows for the realization of everything and anything. It provides a controlled environment, which allows for experimentation without the constraints of the physical realm. The exhibition series New Viewings was initiated during the pandemic, when cultural institutions and galleries were closed down. Barbara Thumm invited artists and curators to overcome these obstacles and make use of her virtual gallery. In that sense her gallery offered not only a digital platform for artists and their projects, but also protected surroundings for the development of new ideas in very uncomfortable times. Almost ironically, this site comes in the shape of an interior space, with a floor, walls and a roof as elementary components, assuming that this rendition of an architectural construction was sufficient for a virtual exhibition.

Notions of Shelter presents works which reflect on spaces of fear and longing rather than of survival or existence. The works explore ambiguous fantasies of safe places, that may or may not provide security, be it psychological or in protection of human rights or cultural identity. In their works the four invited artists deal with the fragility of belonging, imminent loss and their individual search for shelter. Vulnerability, protection and the vague concept of proximity and distance are major themes in Anca Munteanu Rimnic's installation *The Distant Past Beyond Memory*. In contrast, the cold glass façades in Valeria Heisenberg's paintings allow only a fleeting Glimpse of a reality that exists in reflection and refraction. Christina Dimitriadis explores a trichotomy of belonging, returning and arriving in her enigmatic photographic series *Island Hopping*. In *Absent Friends* Felicitas Aga develops one of her paintings into a virtual installation with a mysterious, abandoned house in motion.