

Sies + Höke Galerie

Poststrasse 3
40213 Düsseldorf

t +49. 211. 13 56 67
f +49. 211. 13 56 68
post@sieshoeke.com
www.sieshoeke.com

Press release

“**The Lazy Sunbathers**“ curated by **Lucas Hirsch**

featuring **Ketuta Alexi-Meskhishvili, Radamés Juni Figueroa, Sayre Gomez, Van Hanos, Daniel Keller, Jack Lavender, Rose Marcus, Travess Smalley and Philipp Timischl**

4 September – 16 October 2015, Opening: Friday, 4 September 6-10 pm

Paul is lying on his gaunt belly, naked. Below him a yellow terry cloth robe on the blistering stone floor. His left leg is bent, rocking slightly in the hot wind. On his butt lies a book by Mark Twain, unfolded, the paper pages sticking to his tanned skin. He lifts his head and looks through his sunglasses, Persol McQueen Edition. In front of him, as if rooted, stands a woman in a white linen suit. Bolt upright, with her right hand in the trouser pocket. She has long blond hair and wears a bowler hat. In the shadow of the hat, her flawless face is barely visible. Paul smiles at the woman who does not move from the spot. To her right is a faded white wall, behind her dusty conifers. The sun shines mercilessly. Paul begins the conversation and asks:

"Camille, are you planning on standing there in a suit the whole day staring at me? It is far too hot to be so serious – come on, we're on Capri."

"It's strange Paul, the way you are lying there, it seems to me as if I'm seeing you for the first time."

Paul stands up and slowly turns around his own axis: "Do you like my ass? Do you like my shoulders? Would you like to sunbathe with me?"

Without hesitation, Camille moves towards Paul, raises a second red robe off the floor and pulls it over the suit. Both lie in the sun. Paul naked, Camille disguised. They slice open a melon.

"You know, Paul, sunbathing is totally overrated."

"Are you serious, Camille? I think there is nothing better – here with you in the sun, the world could end and I would stay lying here."

"For me this is nothing – the whole obsession with potent tan, this hedonistic nonsense. Worst of all are the beach and pool pictures on Instagram, look, world, I'm in paradise, I'm fine, I've done it – all that has a destructive force."

"Oh Camille, the only thing destructive here is your pessimism. Sunbathing is harmless."

"Paul, it's all about self-optimization – sunbathing is the evil of an entire generation. Try going to Berlin's Soho House rooftop terrace on a Saturday morning in August. Lying in the sun is a lazy excuse to show how hot you fancy yourself."

"You know, Camille, there is a YouTube video that shows a beach somewhere in Russia in the summer, everything is beautiful, idyllic and suddenly a storm is coming. Within a few seconds it hails lethal ice lumps from heaven directly onto the sunbathers. A meteorological disaster. You're being this hail, Camille."

"All right, all right, Paul. By the way, I know the video, it has tens of thousands of clicks. A New York artist recently processed the video as found footage. I forgot her name, probably due to the heat."

- Robert Grunenberg

Ketuta Alexi-Meskhishvili (*1979 in Tbilisi, Georgia) lives and works in Berlin.

Last solo shows: Micky Schubert, Berlin (2013), Kaufmann Repetto Project Room, Milan (2013), Ancient & Modern, London (2012)

Last group shows: *Mental Diary*, Kunstverein Hannover (2015), *2015 Triennial: Surround Audience*, New Museum, New York (2015), *Revolution from within*, Kaufmann Repetto, Milan (2013)

Radamés Juni Figueroa (*1982 Bayamon, Puerto Rico) lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Last solo shows: Edel Assanti, London (2015) Sculpture Center, New York (2014), El NUMU, Guatemala (2013) Roberto Paradise Gallery, San Juan (2012)

Last group shows: *Whitney Biennial 2014*, Whitney Museum, New York (2014)

Sayre Gomez (*1982 in Chicago) lives and works in Los Angeles.

Last solo shows: Galerie Nagel Draxler, Cologne (2015), François Ghebaly, Los Angeles (2014), Galerie Parisa Kind, Frankfurt (2014), THE HOLE, New York (2013)

Last group shows: *Eagles II*, Marlborough Gallery, Madrid (2015), *Trust (Vita Vel Regula)*, Fluxia, Milan (2014), *Monuments*, Balice Hertling, Paris (2013)

Van Hanos (*1979 in Edison, NJ) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Last solo shows: Tanya Leighton, Berlin (2014), Retrospective Gallery, Hudson (2014), West Street Gallery, New York (2011)

Last group shows: *Call and Response*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York (2015), *Looking Back: The Ninth White Columns Annual*, White Columns, New York (2015), *Don't Look Now*, Zach Feuer Gallery, New York

Daniel Keller (*1986 Detroit) lives and works in Berlin.

Last solo shows: Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin (2015), 63rd–77th Steps / Bari (2014), New Galerie, Paris (2014), NAK Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen (2012)

Last group shows: *The Future of Memory*, Kunsthalle Wien (2015), *Open Source: Art at the Eclipse of Capitalism*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin (2015), *Speculations on Anonymous Materials*, Fridericianum, Kassel (2013), *Connect 4: The Bet*, KW Kunstwerke, Berlin (2013)

Jack Lavender (*1983 in Canterbury, UK) lives and works in London.

Last solo shows: BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2015), The Approach, London (2015), Mihai Nicodim, Los Angeles (2014)

Last group shows: *English Summer*, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York (2015), *Episode 1*, Stems Gallery, Brüssel (2015), *Teen Paranormal Romance*, The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago (2014), *On the Devolution of Culture*, Rob Tufnell, London (2014)

Rose Marcus (*1982, Atlanta, GA) lives and works in New York.

Last solo shows: Night Gallery, Los Angeles (2014), And Now, Dallas (2014), Eli Ping Frances Perkins, New York (2013)

Last group shows: *Please Excuse Our Appearance*, 247365, New York (2015), *3-person exhibition*, United Artists LTD, Marfa (2015), *le doux ron-ron quotidien*, Tanya Leighton, Berlin mit Off Vendome, Dusseldorf (2014)

Travess Smalley (*1986 in Huntington, WV) lives and works in New York.

Last solo shows: Foxy Production, New York (2015), Galerie Andreas Huber, Vienna (2015), Higher Pictures, New York (2014)

Last group shows: *I Know You Got Soul*, Arndt, Singapore (2015), *Human / Evolution / Machine*, Galerie Hussenot, Paris (2014), *Liquid Crystal Palace*, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles (2014), *Secondo Anniversario*, Seventeen Gallery, London (2013)

Philipp Timischl (*1989 Graz, Austria) lives and works in Vienna.

Last solo shows: KM-K Künstlerhaus, Graz (2014), Galerie Emanuel Layr, Vienna (2014), Vilma Gold Gallery (w. Anne Speier), London (2014), Neue Alte Brücke, Frankfurt (2013)

Last group shows: *Destination Wien*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2015), *Über das radikale Nebeneinander*, Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg (2014), *Serpentine 89+ Marathon*, Serpentine Gallery, London (2013)