

empty,
empty,
empty,
empty,
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TICK TACK

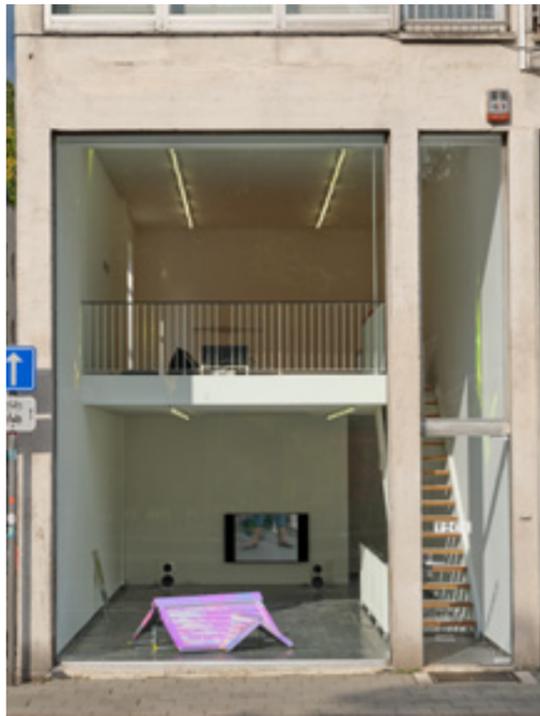
Information

TICK TACK (2019) is a new destination for contemporary art in Antwerp. TICK TACK produces, presents and promotes international exhibitions and video art screenings, complemented with publications and an extensive digital archive.

Housed in the brutalist complex 'De Zonnewijzer', a 1955 key work by architect Léon Stynen, TICK TACK occupies a historic duplex at a vivid city intersection, facing the tram stop and landscape park 'De Harmonie'. The 5-meter-high window functions as an interface between artists and audience and between private and public space.

The TICK TACK program is dual. By day, TICK TACK presents exhibitions, at sunset, the window transforms into a projection screen under the name CINEMA TICK TACK, a new and exclusive platform that brings video and digital art to the public space. Reaching numerous of daily passersby and commuters, CTT serves as a channel, stimulating a connection in its urban setting.

As a result, both day and night, TICK TACK constantly challenges the physical and mental boundaries between inside and out.





**empty,
mpty,
mty,
mt,
,**

Empty, mpty, mty, mt, , evokes the consideration of how objects, images, forms and structures can transcend time as well as the fear of belonging to everywhere and nowhere simultaneously. The show draws together works corresponding to notions of preservation and permanence. Over the past years, Cohen has developed a highly personal vocabulary that intertwines sculpture, painting and time-based media with re-imaginings of his late uncle's mausoleum-like home. However, his practice extends beyond these initial outlines, encompassing a broader exploration of archaeology, architecture, astronomy, memory and more.

Central to the exhibition is the word 'empty,' which holds a pivotal role both in the presentation and its title. Cohen explores the concept of "emptying out", attempting to cling to its own meaning while simultaneously fading away—a metaphor for the ephemeral nature of memories.

The project at TICK TACK aims to unify the works and the space through a series of inextricably linked corners and objects. On show is a range of different pieces including a reflective architectural structure reminiscent of spacecrafts, manipulated archival footage of a bygone era, an interactive installation featuring a dog-mannequin, an immersive basement environment covered in packaging chips, historical references to bed warmers and a juxtaposition of breath and preservation.

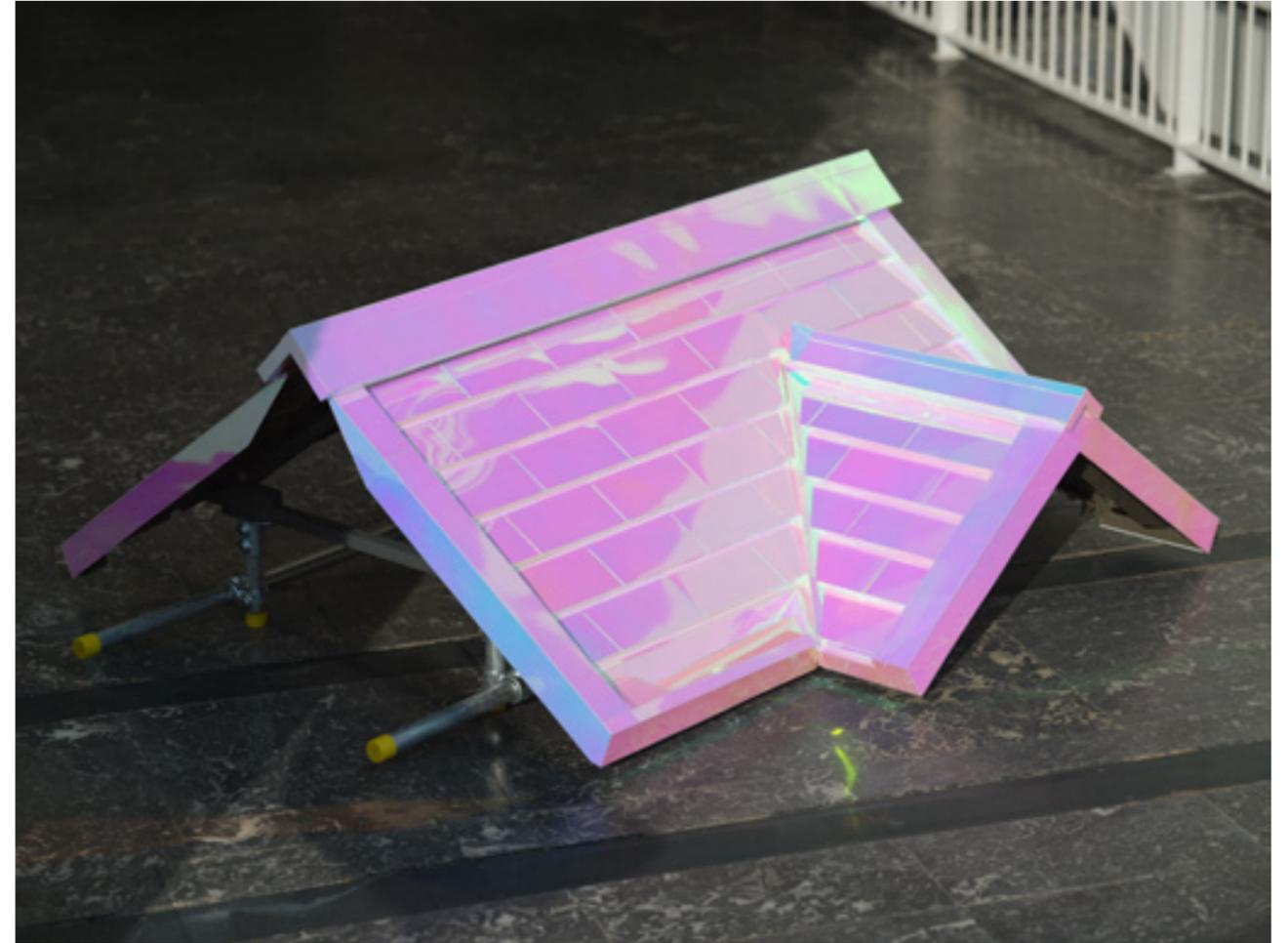
Empty, mpty, mty, mt, , is an invitation for visitors to physically engage with the exhibition: walking through the packaging chips strewn across the basement floor and traversing the orange matting on the upper floor becomes an integral part of the experience. Cohen's family history is allowed to be excavated through a series of fragments and clues, waiting to be pieced together and form new meanings and imaginations.

Benjamin Cohen (London, 1986) lives and works in London. With an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, Cohen's practice explores expanded notions of sculpture and time-based media. He engages with found objects, archival images, film and sound to delve into themes of archeology, architecture, and memory. Cohen has been recognized for his work, including a shortlisting for the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award in 2021. He has held solo exhibitions at Fold Gallery (London) and MAAB Gallery (Milan) and his works have been featured in group exhibitions in the UK, Italy, Vienna and Serbia. Cohen has collaborated on site-specific projects and is a co-founder of the collaborative project 40 Years.



↑ *Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly*
2023
Plastic, mirror-backed styrene,
pine, acrylic, scaffolding poles,
rubber
150 × 116 × 51.5 cm





↑ *Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly*
2023
Plastic, mirror-backed styrene,
pine, acrylic, scaffolding poles,
rubber
150 × 116 × 51.5 cm





↑ *The Wrestlers*
2023
Archival image, plastic,
perforated
perspex, magnets
88 × 67 cm





↑ *Continental Breakfast*
2023
Plastic, ceramic
Dimensions Variable

→ *Off Milk*
2023
Speakers: Perspex units,
car speakers, amp, wires, leads,
audio file, .MOV file
23'30"





↑ All mouth and no trousers
2023
Eco-packaging chips
Dimensions variable

Five Strangers

Five strangers are waiting at a bus stop.

Out of nowhere one of them says in a loud voice "This song makes no sense!"

The rest continues looking ahead as if they didn't hear.

One of them will later wonder if the man at the bus stop earlier had a specific song in mind, or whether by 'song' he was actually referring to something more abstract or figurative like 'the song of the city'.

In terms of your swing

You're not a machine. You're a wonderfully coordinated, eye-hand coordinated animal so let's make use of that. It's not about perfection, it's about skill development. It's your job to control your swing. It doesn't mean you'll always do it perfectly. But it's your responsibility; it's not your swing's responsibility. You cannot delegate that responsibility to your swing and try to filter what we're talking about here, through some abstract language and try to interpret it 'Well what does he mean in terms of my swing?'. I don't mean anything in terms of your swing. What I'm just saying is that you need to take your hand-eye coordination just as you do with a hammer when you pound a nail. And you have to take responsibility for applying the hammerhead TO the nail-head and you can't say to someone else 'Come and see what's wrong with my nail driving swing, I seem to be bending too many nails today.' It doesn't work that way. Your job is to take the end of the hammer and apply it, using your hand-eye coordination TO the nail.

Written by
Amanda Kyritsopoulou

Made of Rubber

Switching to a lifestyle that allows for certain distances to be walked on a daily basis comes with the side-effect of shoes wearing off faster than usual. That realisation may appear as too obvious but in reality it only hits a couple of pairs down the line.

It is likely that the proportion of the population that would actually foresee this nuisance and prepare accordingly, also enjoys using miscellaneous articles such as wall mounted broom holders and toothpaste squeezers.

The Initial Assumption

Because of an overall lack of visual or sensory symptoms on the surface of the skin in combination with no tearfulness or loss of hair, the initial assumption was that the situation was over the minute it ended. However nine months later, when the feeling of what feeling better actually feels like settled in, it became imperative to revise the initial assumption and that is exactly what happened. The initial assumption being that the situation was over the minute it ended.





The Alarm

Jacqueline's neighbour's alarm clock goes off every morning at 6.30 am and continues ringing for about an hour. She has never met her neighbour as she has recently moved in this new flat with her male partner Ed. It's been 4 months. It is now clear that no one is in her neighbour's apartment to press the stop-it button. It is also clear that it is the type of alarm clock that gets plugged into a socket so it doesn't run out of battery. Jacqueline owns a similar one so she knows how it works.

Jacqueline is hoping that the neighbour is indeed away and will one day come back to stop the alarm going off. She wonders when that is going to happen. She is hoping that the neighbour is away and they will be back soon because if they are not, she would assume that the neighbour is dead. And if the neighbour is indeed dead, then she can't help but wonder whether they are being dead inside the apartment or somewhere else. All of the above is obviously very alarming.

Sometimes she will take a moment to marvel at the speed at which she can generate such sequences in her mind, resulting in a minor discomfort inside her stomach.

*Is the neighbour away?
if yes
for how long?
If no
is the neighbour dead?
If yes
is the neighbour away?
If no
repeat from start*

After years of careful self-observation she has also noticed that the moments of intentionally releasing such thinking spirals, by focusing on something entirely different and practical, are often followed by an unintentional burp.

Jacqueline's male partner Ed on the other hand, is very good at generating answers and discusses the scenario of the neighbour being dead with a calm, detached matter-of-fact-ness accompanied by the release of a series of farts, some intentional some not. Jacqueline experiences Ed's stance as both infuriating and reassuring.

*If dead, for how long?
Sometimes months.
If dead for months, what about the friends?
Some people are truly alone.
If dead for months and truly alone, what about the rent?
Direct debit or owned property.
If dead for months, truly alone and owning property,
what about the mortgage?
Direct debit or no mortgage.*

Ed says plenty of people own places without a mortgage. He says he knows plenty of them. She doesn't.

Jacqueline has been consumed by building her website and hasn't been out at all in three days. She wishes she could afford a graphic designer and is preoccupied



by the dilemma of whether having an online shop could turn her unsuccessful business into a successful one. In the meantime, she keeps her bedroom windows open in case the Fire Brigade shows up and attempts to enter the building to retrieve the neighbour's body. She is also undecided about how to visually introduce her work online, temporarily testing a straightforward template where everything shows up as a plain list of captioned photographs in chronological order. It would be this or a slightly more nuanced approach where everything appears as an image of a model of the original thing. She has been both criticized and complimented for her tendency to conceal meaning. This makes her constantly question her decisions on that matter and as a consequence, her choice of profession at large.

Yesterday morning, at 6.30am, as the neighbour's alarm went off again, she had the idea of using the image of a turtle as the prompt for an erratic type of navigation through the website. The idea being that the turtle would function as a tour guide, ready to be clicked on and randomly lead the viewer to the next image or text without any reference to timeline or content consistency.

Home page, find turtle
If press turtle
Take to Winning the Race
Winning the Race page, find turtle
If press turtle
Take to Bio
Bio page, find turtle
If press turtle
Take to Fable

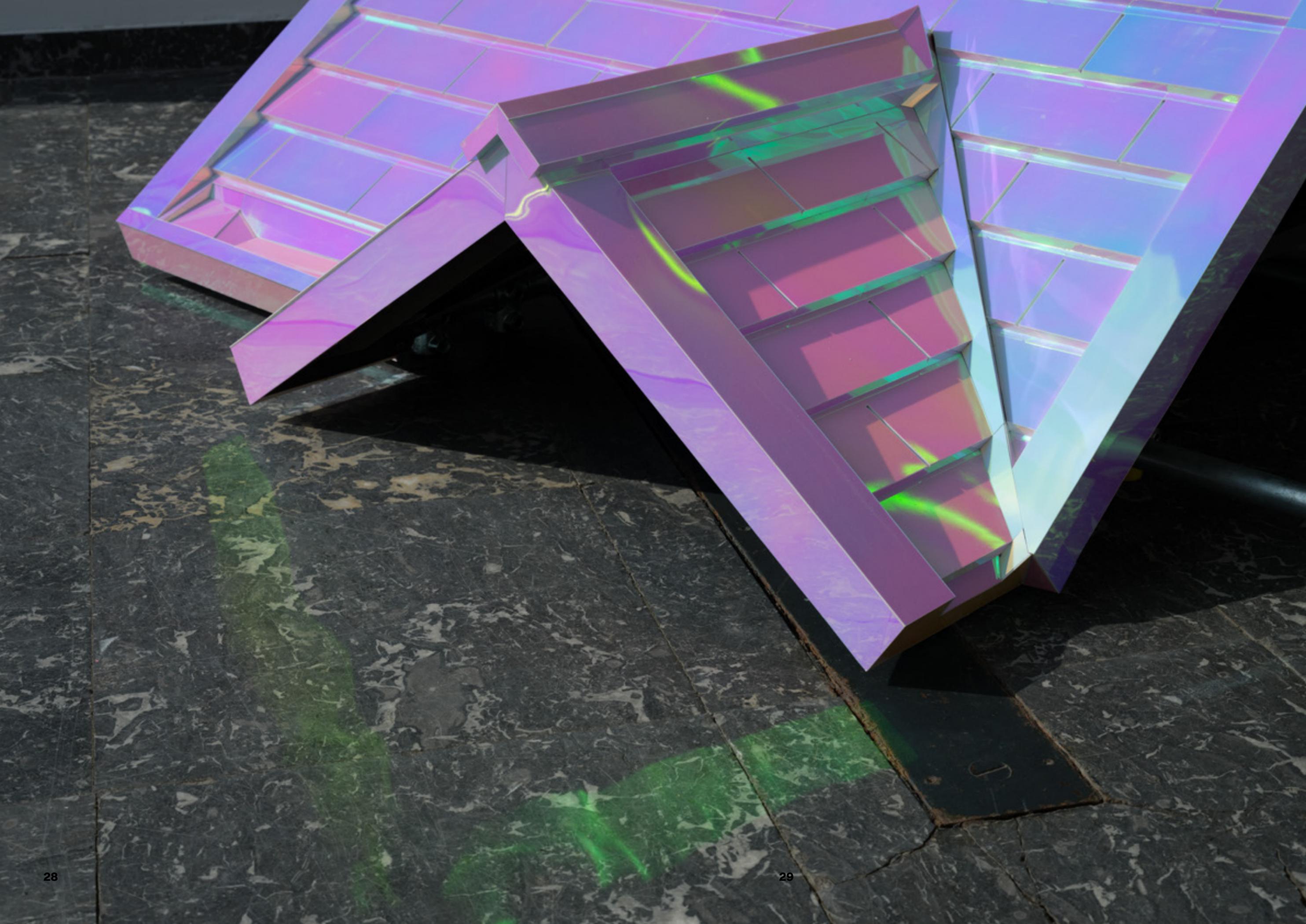
And so on

Some people like very orderly websites that convey information in a clear manner, while others enjoy a type of navigation that offers a greater sense of freedom, which is really a greater sense of control, just handed over. She now knows that in her field, a fancy way of convincingly camouflaging that dynamic with words is through the use of phrases like *agency through contingency*. In any case she likes how turtles are slow, ugly and related to dinosaurs. Carrying their own shell they seem to be in it for the long run. Ed will think that the turtle is a horrible idea no matter the terminology. Jacqueline thinks that this is probably because in his field and gender, confidence matters more than expertise.

It is 7am in the morning, six months after Jacqueline's turtle idea and the neighbour's alarm hasn't rang yet. Lying there awake and somewhat relieved, Jacqueline is staring at how Ed's double chin is trembling while he snores. She is coming to the understanding that she is probably too stupid for Ed who is definitely too smart and wonders if people are ever so stupid to the point of ending up smart or if it only works the other way round. She makes a mental note to not forget her alarm clock when she leaves or the neighbour might think she's dead.

Home page, find turtle
If press turtle
Take to Exit.

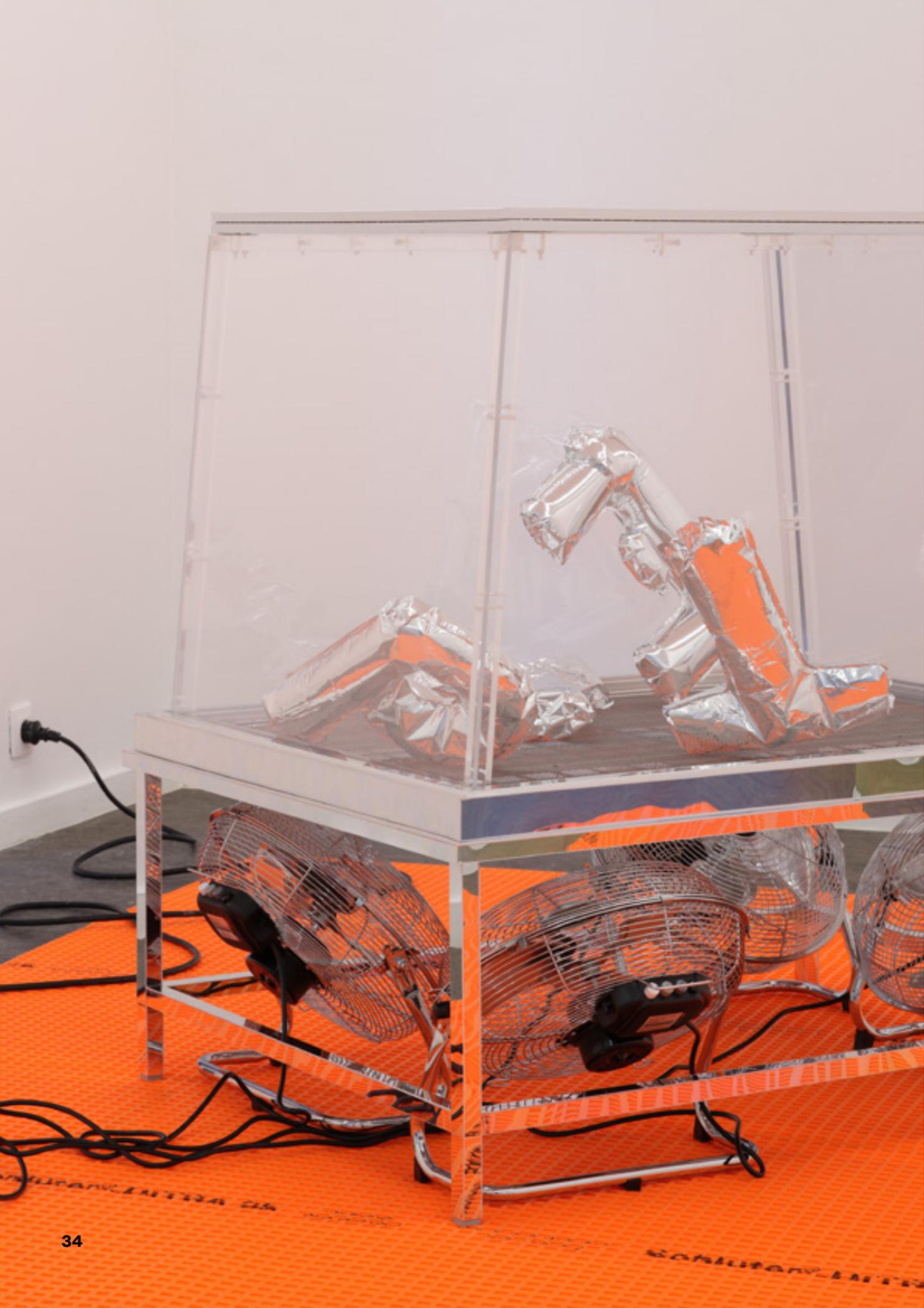






BUSenCO





↑ Dog Tooth Spa
2023
Rubber, Perspex, mirror-backed
styrene, inflatables, metal,
plastic, pine, fans
345 x 300 x 108 cm

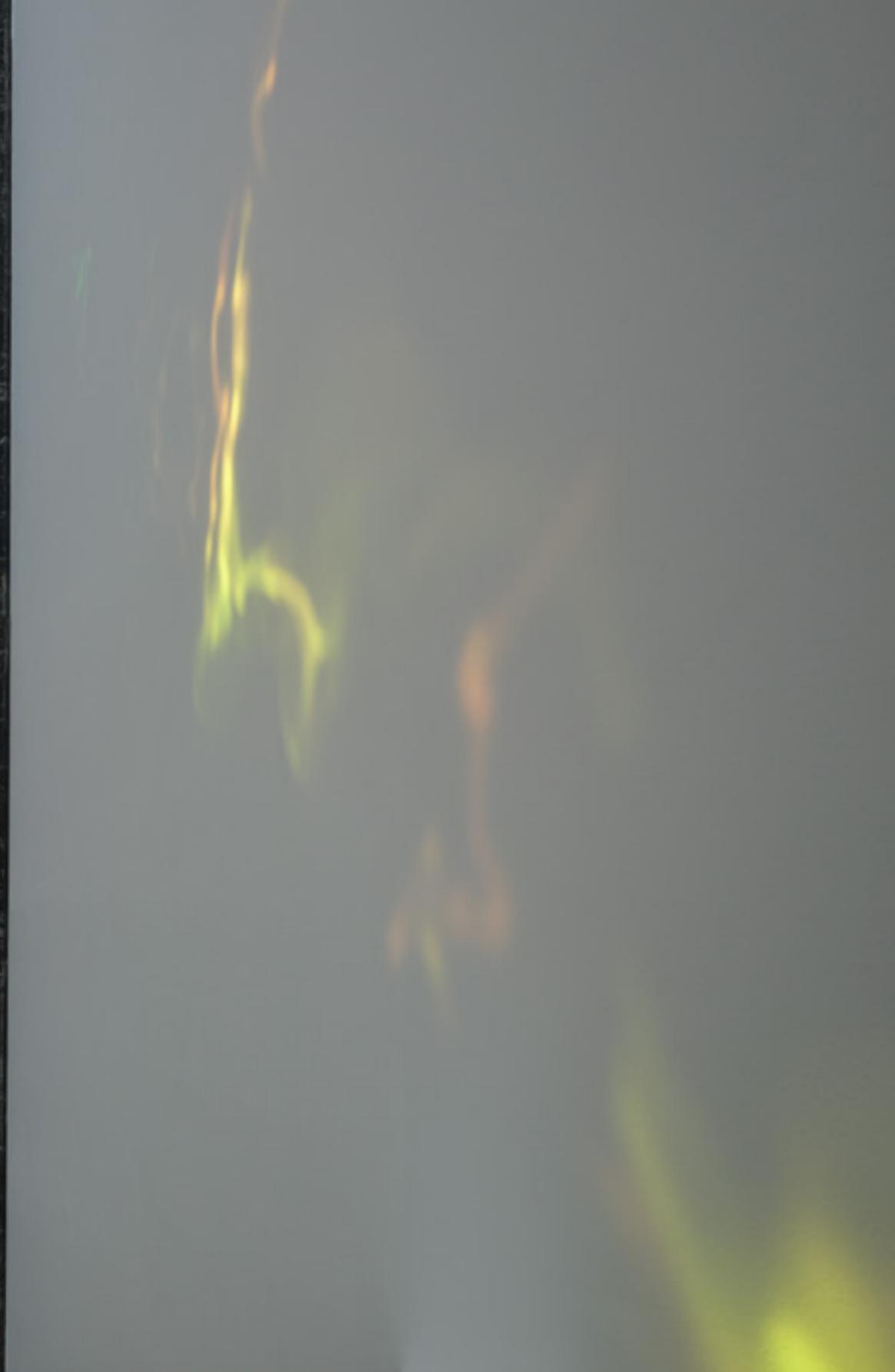
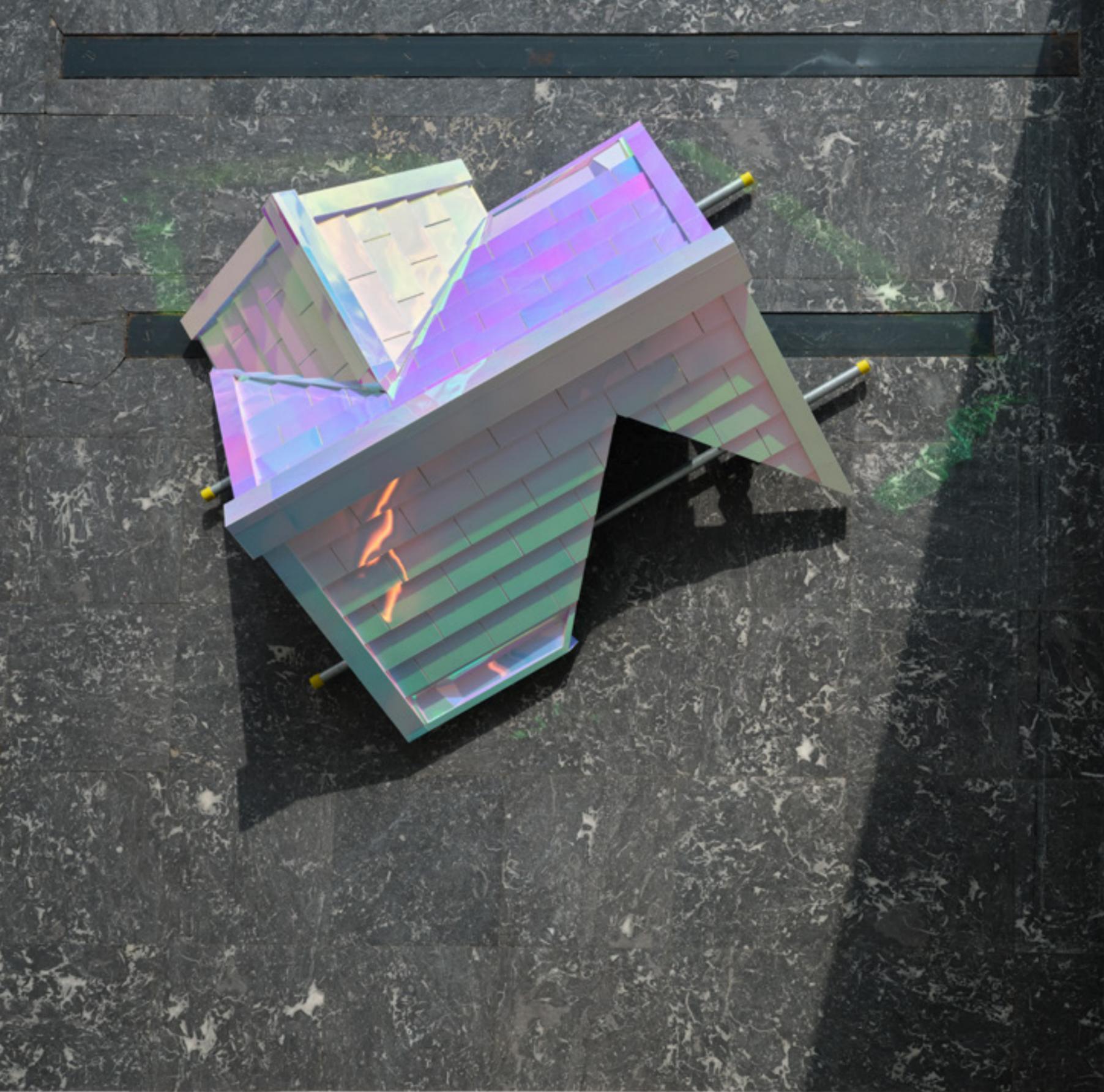


↑ *Dog Tooth Spa*
2023
Rubber, Perspex, mirror-backed
styrene, inflatables, metal,
plastic, pine, fans
345 x 300 x 108 cm





↑ *Soft Knees*
2023
Fuji print, aluminium, foam board
40 x 10.5 x 1 cm



CINEMA TICK TACK

Beatrice Vorster
well-mannered guests
28.07–02.09.2023

As an extension of his solo exhibition in the space of TICK TACK, Benjamin Cohen invited Beatrice Vorster to create a new work for CINEMA TICK TACK.

Vorster presented an elongated gif that parasitically draws from vampire cinema, forming a contemporary silent film where the rhythm of the image is endlessly reproduced and shared.

Beatrice Vorster (1994, Johannesburg) is an artist engaging with ideas of rhythm, aliveness and fictioning through audiovisual experiments with recording and reproducing. Recent exhibitions include Outpainting at SET Woolwich 2023; Not before it has forgotten you at Nicoletti Contemporary; i <3 your output at greengrassi in 2022. She performs and releases music as tape_2046 playing regularly across London spaces and international airwaves.

She is on the editorial board of SonicScope journal (MIT Press/Goldsmiths Press) and a lecturer in Fine Art at the University of the Arts London.





Beatrice Vorster
well-mannered guests
2023
HD video
3'16"





Beatrice Vorster
well-mannered guests
2023
HD video
3'16"





Colophon

TICK TACK is a new destination for contemporary art in Antwerp, founded by Tijs Lammar, Vincent Lemson, Patrick Vanden Eynde, Arne Jennard

TICK TACK staff:
Tijs Lammar,
Mathias Swings,
Patrick Vanden Eynde,
Oleksandra Rashevka

Independent board members:
Peter Bertels,
Iris Paschalidis,
Lieselotte De Mey,
Louise Goegebeur

Photographs:
We Document Art

Graphic design:
Christophe Clarijs & Robin Vets

Logo design and animation:
Travis Kane

Typeface:
Modern Gothic by Malte Bentzen

With special thanks to:
TICK TACK
Amanda K.
Beatrice V.
Emma Mathews
Alan
Derrick
Jan Vanbriel
Mie & Stathis

With the support of our partners:



The logo for TICK, featuring the word 'TICK' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'I' is replaced by a stylized graphic of a vertical line with a horizontal bar at the top, resembling a tick mark or a structural element. The background of the entire page is a low-angle photograph of a modern building's glass and metal facade, with a sunset or sunrise sky in shades of orange, pink, and blue. The building's structure is composed of various geometric shapes and lines, creating a complex, abstract pattern.

TICK

**Two-monthly catalogue
September–October 2023**

*empty,
mpty,
mty,
mt,*

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Benjamin Cohen
28.07–02.09.2023

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TICK TACK

Opening hours:
THU–SAT, 13:00–19:00

Mechelsesteenweg 247,
2018 Antwerpen
www.ticktack.be

+32 (0) 499 10 79 57
info@ticktack.be

CINEMA TICK TACK

Opening hours:
MON–SUN, sunset–01:00

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[#ticktacktime](https://www.facebook.com/ticktacktime)

cover image: Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly, 2023, plastic, mirror-backed styrene, pine, acrylic, scaffolding poles, rubber, 150 x 116 x 51,5 cm