

## VITRINE PROJECT

### I - THE CELL



**ATELIER FERNANDA CHIECO**  
**Stølegaten 10A - Bergen/NO**

Insufficient exposure to natural sunlight may facilitate a subconscious craving for artificial light. This subtle increased awareness may draw the curious observer to delve deeper, to investigate the source and perhaps, the intended subject matter.

The inaugural series of exhibitions comprising the Vitrine Project at **Atelier Fernanda Chieco**, is entitled *The Cell*. Five interdisciplinary artworks by international contemporary artists will occupy the vitrine room for a series of two-night exhibitions during the darkest period of the year. The site-specific projects will capture the attention of pedestrians in Stølegaten/Bergen between December 6th 2019 and April 4th 2020.

*The Cell* is inspired by Louise Bourgeois's 'Cells' and plays with the physical properties of the vitrine windows on the corner of the 220-year-old building. Its dictatorial structure separates the art from its urban environment while simultaneously contaminating the street with subtly provocative light.

The glass membrane serves to separate the poetic action from the observer. It is not a touch screen. The viewer can not manipulate its content. *The Cell* encases and protects the will of the artists while exposing it to passers-by, appealing to their desire to peer in. By confronting Kant's understanding, that actions resulting from desires cannot be free, the artists in *The Cell* virtually dissolve physical barriers by diverting desire into experience.

*The Cell* may only be viewed from the public space outside.

## Exhibitions calendar

The artworks will be on continuous public display, day and night, during the exhibition period unless stated otherwise.

2019 Dec 6/7	PAB - Performance Art Bergen
2020 Jan 3/4	Verónica Bapé
2020 Jan 31/Feb 1	Sara Plantefève-Castryck
2020 Mar 6/7	Rita Marhaug
2020 Apr 3/4	Nora Adwan

Vitrine Project will be inaugurated on December 6th with a ritualistic occupation by members of **PAB (Performance Art Bergen)** performing their traditional Open Session. Referring to the Christmas season where light and sparkling decorations are used to enlighten consumerism, PAB will use the space to decorate and shed light on improvisation.

On January 5th, **Verónica Bapé** will present her video in *The Cell*. Bapé will provoke the attention of the living through a series of actions originally intended for connecting with the dead. Spells for casting-off selfish desires, or invoking memories of the departed, may be contrived by simply lighting a candle.

Contrasting with Bapé, on January 30th, **Sara Plantefève-Castryck's** installation of colourful and dynamic light paintings from intriguing and clandestine sources will be displayed on The Vitrine windows. Her ghosts will also only be visible from the outside darkness.

On March 6th the artist will again be present within the vitrine. **Rita Marhaug** will interact with viewers by creating a form of communication through performative actions. Marhaug will enable her random and spontaneous audience, and their attentive participation, to influence her decisions on the compositional elements within *The Cell*.

At the beginning of April, towards the end of the dark winter and to finalize the series, **Nora Adwan** will explore the hollow vitrine space with her liquid defragmentation of layers of identity. The return of the daylight will provide Adwan with the possibility of playing with the dichotomy of the light that reflects and refracts through the glass both during day and night.

## About the artists

### Performance Art Bergen (PAB)

Based in Bergen and active internationally

<https://www.performanceartbergen.no/en/>

Membership organisation founded in 2011 by performance artists Kurt Johannessen, Agnes Nedregård, Karen Kiphoff, Rita Marhaug, Benedicte Leinan Clementsen and Robert Alda, and producer Marianne Rønning. *Open Session (PAB OS)* is a free and experimental art space, open to performers, artists and audience with an interest in Performance Art.

*PAB Open Session* focuses mainly on performance in the public space, inspired by Bbeyond's monthly meetings in Belfast. The concept is inclusive and open, so performance artists can have an arena to test new ideas and freely work with their intuition and with each other.

### Verónica Bapé

Lives and works in France and Mexico

<https://cargocollective.com/estudioveronicabape>

Bapé's work is a group articulated by several disciplines in which a dialogue is sought between painting, drawing, writing and photography. Her interest focuses on some events that have historically been relegated from logical rational narratives, although these appear in mythology, oral literature and folklore, as well as in rituals, dogmas, crafts and works of art. Some of these events are death, double vision and the rituals linked to them.

Formally, she solves the work through portraiture and landscape, particularly inquiring into its chromatic qualities (the temperature of a painting). Also, Bapé resorts to writing and the photographic image as a tool and not as an end in itself. In addition, she uses certain materials that can adopt an expressive character other than their origin, such as beeswax, felt and sheep wool in correspondence with the human body, energy and spirit.

### Sara Plantefève-Castryck

Lives and works in Belgium and Norway

<http://www.saraplantefevECAstryck.com/>

Plantefève-Castryck's practice explores the existing social structures between art, the gallery space and the audience. With her spatial installations she tries to break boundaries and let people actively engage in co-creating or activating her artwork. Currently she is exploring the medium of light as a sculptural medium to investigate the audiences psychological respond to illumination and colour.

Her recent installations bring light, colour, the physical body and space together. By creating immersive spaces she aims to generate transcending experiences that enables an audience to reach a certain emotional and physical space. One of the focus points in this ongoing investigation is the singular element of colour.

## Rita Marhaug

Lives and works in Norway

<https://www.ritamarhaug.com/>

Core themes in Rita Marhaug's artistic production has been long-standing investigations of family relations and identity. The many aspects of sensing, beauty and decay, life and death, are other strands in her practice, often linked to current ethical dilemmas.

Marhaug often do collaborations with artist colleagues. Her latest work was with Terese Longva. Traci Kelly is a long-term collaborator as well as Nisa Ojalvo, Karen Kipphoff, Gillian Carson and Robert Alda.

For the last five years, she has been head of board at Trykkeriet, centre of contemporary printmaking in Bergen.

## Nora Adwan

Lives and works in Norway and Jordan

<https://noraadwan.com>

Geographical contexts, displacement and instability, freedom, lack of it and self-determination and feminism are important themes in Adwan's works. She is inspired by social phenomena and technological developments, as well as personal experiences.

She originally studied sculpture before beginning to work with representational technology around 2005; including, lens based media, sound and biometrics. Her practice has always remained rooted in sculptural form, architectural space and materiality.

## About the venue

### **Atelier Fernanda Chieco**

Stølegaten 10A / Bergen / NO

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[www.fernandachieco.com](http://www.fernandachieco.com)

Atelier Fernanda Chieco is an artist-driven venue for international and local contemporary art in Bergen. Besides hosting Fernanda Chieco's private art studio, it aims to encourage dialogues with higher standards of art and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art passionates and professional artists.

The atelier was inaugurated in February 2019 on the ground floor of an old colonial shop in Stølegaten dating from the late 1700s. Before Nye Sandviksvei was built in about 1870, Stølegaten formed part of the main transport road connecting Bergen with its districts to the North. The route is narrow and steep, rising from Øvregaten, up Nikolaikirkeallmenning to Steinkjellergaten and then Stølegaten and the crossroad with Helgesens gate and Ladergårdsgaten.

During the 1800s up to 18 000 people used the route daily and the street remains the busiest pedestrian access route into Bergen from Sandviken. (Bergen Byleksikon).