

Lily Pellaud

Portfolio (Selection 2023-2025)

Artist Statement

My artistic practice begins with writing: feelings and daily experiences flow in, words flow out. From these traces, I explore textiles, photography, wood, video, and installation, letting each process dialog and gradually find their place.

I often step into a second self for the camera, or embody Heivi, a persona through which I engage with my Alpine background and the socio-economic realities of Switzerland. Heivi transforms autobiographical traces into fiction, weaving them together with AI voicing, public discourse, and social critique.

I am drawn to creating site-specific, immersive installations that invite audiences inside, rather than isolating works within the white cube. My practice builds surreal, colourful environments that blur documentary, fiction and visual poetry.

Since last year I have begun to treat projects as open constellations: works branching into parallel or divergent versions, as with Through the looking-eyes. Exhibiting these across different contexts allows me to experiment with display and layering, while letting the narratives grow and shift alongside my own reflections.

Through writing, observation, and experimentation, I explore creativity, productivity, and labor, always in dialogue with my reality as a young artist. My modest, low-budget projects aim to create humorous yet reflective encounters, moments of resonance with the shared rhythms and struggles of everyday life.

CV

Education

- 2020-2023 BA Fine Arts, ZHdK, Zurich (CH)
2023 Guest student - Course with lecturer Flaka Haliti in the Photography Class, Summer semester, AdBK, Munich (DE)
2022 Exchange semester - Transcultural Collaboration, ZHdK, Zurich (CH), LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore(SG), Galeri Lorong , Yogyakarta (IND)
2022 Summer School - Shared Campus, "Cities on the Move", Bangkok (TH)
2019-2020 Foundation year, EDHEA, Sierre (CH)

Awards, Grants, Prices

- 2024-2025 Programme - What's next_Compass support programme, ZHdK, Zurich (CH)
2024 Awarded the Roxy Price - Jugendfilm Festival Movie Day, Romanshorn (CH)

Exhibitions (selection)

- 2025 Mischkulturen, Berghof 127, Embrach (CH)
2025 Expo Avenches, Avenches (CH)
2025 Rautistrasse 3000, Kreis 9, Zurich (CH) (Performance)
2024 A Letter from a Friend, Bacio Collective, Bern (CH)
2024 Kantine de la résonance, Schlachthof Kulturzentrum, Biel (CH)
2024 Plestelin Art Festival, U10 Art Space, Belgrade (SRB)
2024 ramer à contre-pied (Monday through Sunday), 345 off.space, Zurich (CH) (Solo show)
2023 Wonky and Skewed, NEST, Zurich (CH)
2023 How to build an Oerlikon dreamhouse, Zurich (CH)
2023 BA Diploma Exhibition, ZHdK, Zurich (CH)
2023 MEET / CLASH / LOSE / FIND, Galeri Lorong, Yogyakarta (IND) (Performance)
2022 This was an open call, Tripty Collective, Bern (CH)
2022 ACT Performance, Café littéraire, Biel (CH) (Performance)

Screenings

- (Prendre l'araignée par les cornes,2023)
2025 Schweizer Jugendfilmtage, Nachtaktiv, Zurich (CH)
2024 MikroFAF, SHORT DIY FILM Category, Belgrade (SRB)
2024 Jugendfilm Festival Movie Day, Romanshorn (CH)
2024 Schweizer Jugenfilmtage, Zurich (CH)
2023 Fantoche, Schweizer Jugendfilmtage, Talent Industry, Baden (CH)

Residency

- 2025 Artist residency at Keramikos 23, Athens (GRC)
2024 Artist residency at Footnote Center for Image and Text, Belgrade (SRB)

Publications

- 2024 *On temporary dislocation*, Self-published zine
2023 *Collective Spaces*, Self-published zine, Collective 2.5
2021 *Bricking Through*, Appropriate! Journal zur Aneignung und Vermittlung von Kunst, Issue 2., Bricking Through Collective

Curation/Organisation

- 2025-ongoing Member of off.off Switzerland, (CH)
2024-ongoing Co-curation, 345.offspace, Zurich (CH)
2023-2024 Curation, *The waiting room (ode to ideas)*, Kreis 6, Zurich (CH)

Ongoing/Upcoming (Selection)

- 2025 Videokunst, online/Bern/Zurich (CH) (Solo show)
2025 Youth Biennale, Belgrade (SRB) (Group show)
2025-2026 Auslandatelier-Stipendium SKK, Belgrade (SRB) (Residency Granted by the City of Zurich)
2026 Dogo Residenz für Neue Kunst, (CH) (Residency)

Lily Pellaud (b. 2000 in Martigny)

CH-8037 Zurich

inquiriesandimagination@lilypellaud.com

HELP HEIVI STAY!, 2025

Multimedia (video, crowdfunding, performative actions)
HD-video loop, 5'26", 16:9, color, stereo sound
[Link to the project platform](#)
[Link to Heivis instagram](#)

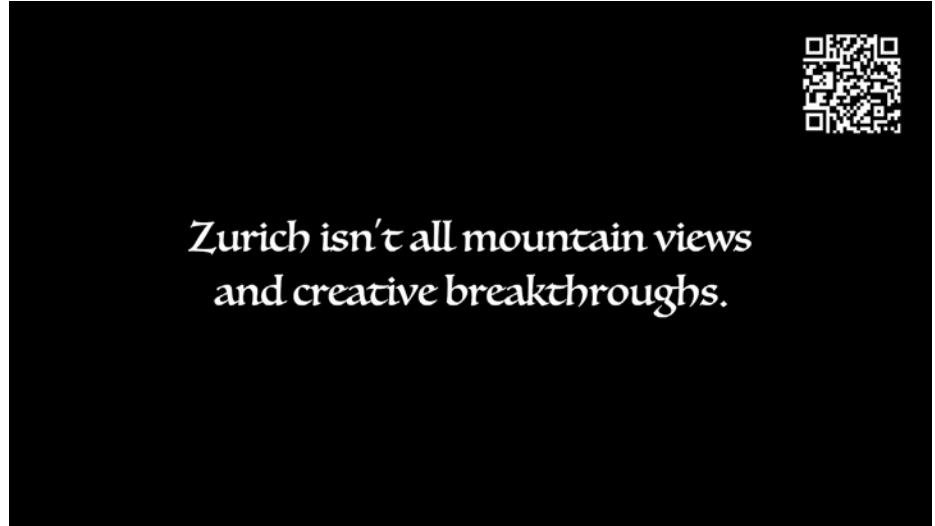
HELP HEIVI STAY! is an art project about belonging, housing precarity, and resisting the slow erasure of cultural workers in gentrifying cities. Zurich is home, but holding onto it is becoming increasingly difficult. Through uncanny storytelling with my persona Heivi, footage from the Zurich Wohndemo 2025 as well as the ruins of my former home, the video reflects on what it means to fight for a place in a city that grows less livable for the very people who shape its culture.

The project combines a video artwork with a real crowdfunding campaign. The crowdfunding serves a double role: providing Heivi with a year of rent while also becoming an artistic gesture about how artists navigate survival, labour, and dependency on funding. Importantly, the rewards are directly tied to Heivi's story, allowing supporters to become part of her world and extend the narrative beyond the screen.

Running in parallel with the exhibition, the campaign blurs the line between artistic process and lived reality. Beyond the video, I also carry out performative actions in Swiss cities, handing out flyers as Heivi to spark conversations about housing precarity directly in public space.

The work was presented via Videokunst.ch, with screenings on two public and physical displays in Zurich and Bern and on their website. The QR code on screen linked the viewer directly to the crowdfunding page on wemakeit.com.







Installation view, **HELP HEIVI STAY!**, Houdini Kino Videofenster, Zurich, 2025

faire vache maigre, 2025

Video installation

HD-video loop, 10'20", 16:9, color, stereo sound

Miniature plastic cows, fake grass, DIY ornaments (paper, beads, fake flower, glue), chains, computer screen, wooden coat rack, headphones

Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)

In *faire vache maigre* (2025) I explore further the installative potential of *faire vache maigre* (2024), working with the site specifics of the Kaufsladen in Berghof.

In the video work, which I shortened in order to fit the conditions of the space better, I use the metaphor of a cow's life cycle to delve into the relationship between the Artist and their Ideas. From birth to death, the cow (the Idea) is nurtured, grows, and ultimately meets its end, only for the cycle to begin again.

The phrase „faire vache maigre“ is a creative construction blending two French expressions: „faire chou blanc“ (to come up empty-handed after making an effort) and „traverser une période de vaches maigres“ (to go through a period of scarcity, when resources are limited and conditions are challenging).

The work unravels the journey of an artist dealing with the Life/Death/Life cycle of their creative thoughts and pursuits, confronting defeat, and exploring the dual role of being both the creator and the killer.



Picture: Oliver Kümmerli



Installation view, **faire vache maigre**, Berghof, Embrach, 2025

Picture: Oliver Kümmeli

œil pour œil, dent, 2025

Installation

Print on forex, LED light strip

130 × 120 cm × 25 cm

Oeil pour œil, dent was created in response to my visit to the Avenches temple. Upon entering, I was struck by the fresco of Saint Apollonia's martyrdom, placed on a pillar to the left. A violent, brutal scene, imposing by its size and intensity. And yet... it seems to have been absorbed by the walls of the temple for so long that it has become almost invisible to visitors. I felt compelled to bring it out, to let it breathe, to place it in a different context, a different language.

Here, I transpose the religious icon into an absurd and grotesque universe, where the extracted teeth become garnish, the strings like spaghetti. An improbable feast; disturbing, almost burlesque.



Picture: nonante



Installation view (nighttime), *œil pour œil, dent*, 2025

Picture: nonante

Through the looked-eyes, 2025

Performance

Projected HD-video, 8'45", 16:9, color, sound

Through the looked-eyes explores the parallels between the Spider and the Woman (the female artist) through a shifting exchange of gazes. In this performance, I position myself before spider footage recorded last year, moving in resonance with the spiders while looking at both the projection and the audience, creating a triad of gazes between the Viewer, myself, and the Spider on screen. Over this, a recorded voice recites fragments from my 2024 diary: intimate reflections on encounters with the Spider in the solitude of my bedroom and our shared fate of impending homelessness.

The performance took place in an empty apartment of a building slated for demolition due to gentrification, as part of the Rautistrasse 3000 exhibition, curated by Papillarya and the Rauti collective.



Video documentation: David Dragan



Documentation picture, ***Through the looked-eyes***, 2025

Through the looking-eyes, 2024-ongoing

Video Installation

HD-video-loop, 8'49", 16:9, color, sound

Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)

Through the looking-eyes is an ongoing exploration of the parallels between the spider and the act of creation -the female artist- first introduced in my 2023 work *Prendre l'araignée par les cornes*.

In this video installation, I expand on this parallel by staging an interplay of gazes between the CCTV, the Woman (the female artist), and the Spider.

La femme aux pattes se montre la nuit, pas besoin de permission puisque omniprésente. Elle a entamé sa danse infernale. Cette créature si intrigante, on l'a piégé sous verre, innocence qui torture.

Spiders have long captivated me, evoking both fascination and empathy. As my relationship with spiders, myself and myself as an artist evolves, I allow the work to grow alongside me.





Installation view, **Through the looking-eyes**, Open Studio, Keramikos 23 residency, Athens, 2024-ongoing

faire vache maigre, 2024

Video installation

HD-video loop, 13'01", 16:9, color, stereo sound

2 speakers, beamer, artificial turf, tarpaulin cover,

polypropylene nonwoven fabric

Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)

In *faire vache maigre*, I use the metaphor of a cow's life cycle to delve into the relationship between the Artist and their Ideas. From birth to death, the cow (the Idea) is nurtured, grows, and ultimately meets its end, only for the cycle to begin again.

The phrase „faire vache maigre“ is a creative construction blending two French expressions: „faire chou blanc“ (to come up empty-handed after making an effort) and „traverser une période de vaches maigres“ (to go through a period of scarcity, when resources are limited and conditions are challenging).

The work unravels the journey of an artist dealing with the Life/Death/Life cycle of their creative thoughts and pursuits, confronting defeat, and exploring the dual role of being both the creator and the killer.





Video stills, ***faire vache maigre***, 2024



Installation view, ***faire vache maigre***, Schlachthof Kulturzentrum, Biel, 2024

ramer à contre-pied (Monday through Sunday), 2024

Installation

Wood, motor, screws, plexiglas, paper, wallpaper, curtains, lace

Dimensions variable

[Link to video documentation](#)



The work by Lily Pellaud *ramer à contre-pied (Monday through Sunday)* started as a performative piece that was heavily influenced by the specificity of the location of the off.space. The vitrine of the 345 is facing a shipyard and a bridge where passersby walk their dogs, themselves or their children. She would row in a costume that might remind of a sailor, sitting on the metal bars of the bridge. In this work Lily continues to follow her interest of the intertwinement of entertainment for the public and precarious conditions of living of the artist.

From a video documentation of her own performative action, Lily developed a puppet who is endlessly rowing (Monday through Sunday), also influenced by a scene in the factory in a film of Charlie Chaplin *Modern Times* (1936) where the mechanical repetitive action leads the protagonist to madness. In French, “ramer” means both “to row” and “to struggle,” encapsulating the dual nature of the artist’s experience. Maybe in the beginning she would navigate as a sailor would though the lake, but at some point this process turned into a struggle of an emerging artist. One is not labouring for a wage, but working all the time (either on their projects or to sustain a living).

Historically, in France, the Guignol puppet was a symbol of the working class and a tool for political satire. Lily draws a parallel between this theatrical tradition and the labor of the artist, highlighting how the puppet evolves from an instrument of free oral tradition to a more controlled and scripted performance. This transformation is mirrored in the aesthetic choices within the work, such as the use of curtains, which hint at the theatrical origins of Guignol.

Lily brings the viewer in by mirroring the environment of the bridge in the work and setting a stage where her representation and the viewer are in one symbolic space. So the construction of the bridge becomes integral to her work.

Text : Olga Popova



Installation view, *ramer à contre-pied (Monday through Sunday)*, 345 off.space, Zurich, 2024

***Heivi in the mountains*, 2023**

Video installation

HD-video loop, 3'59", 16:9, color, 5.0 sound configuration

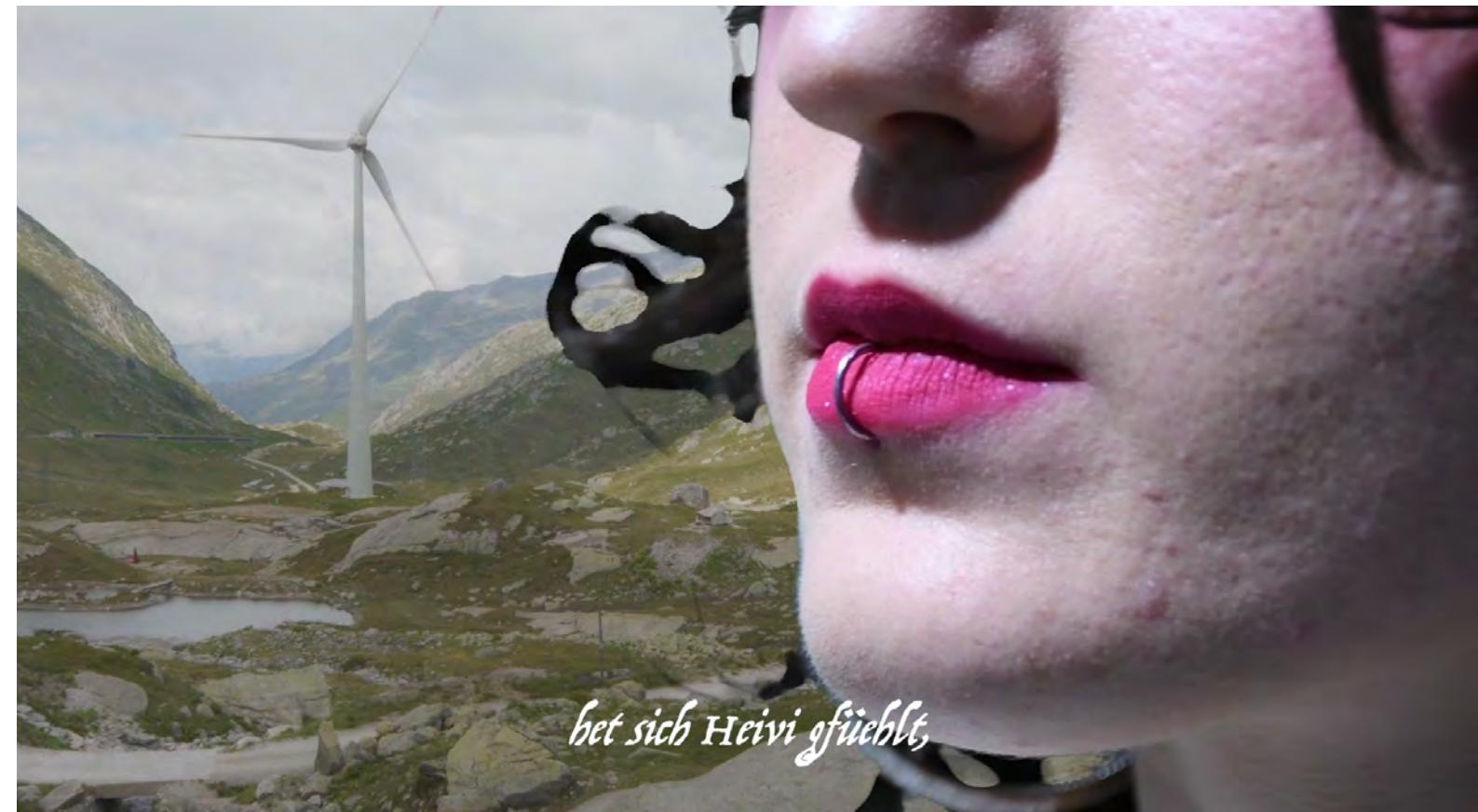
5 speakers, beamer

Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)

Heivi in the Mountains is a video installation that reimagines the classic tale of Heidi in a dystopian narrative. We ingeniously portray Heivi's return to the alpine landscape, now drastically transformed by human influence, prompting contemplation on environmental shifts. Using visuals and ambient sounds from Oberwallis captured earlier that year, we employ AI as a storyteller (and an uncanny translator), offering a satirical take that urges viewers to ponder the evolving Swiss landscape.

This collaborative work made with Oleksandra Tsapko was created as part of the research project "How does landscape sound" led by Thomas Isler and supported by the IFCAR Research Grant 2023.







Installation view, *Heivi in the mountains*, ZHdK, Zurich, 2023

Untitled (and overworked), 2023

Video Installation

HD video-loop, 1'48", 16:9, color,

Pvc floor, IPad, pillow, bag

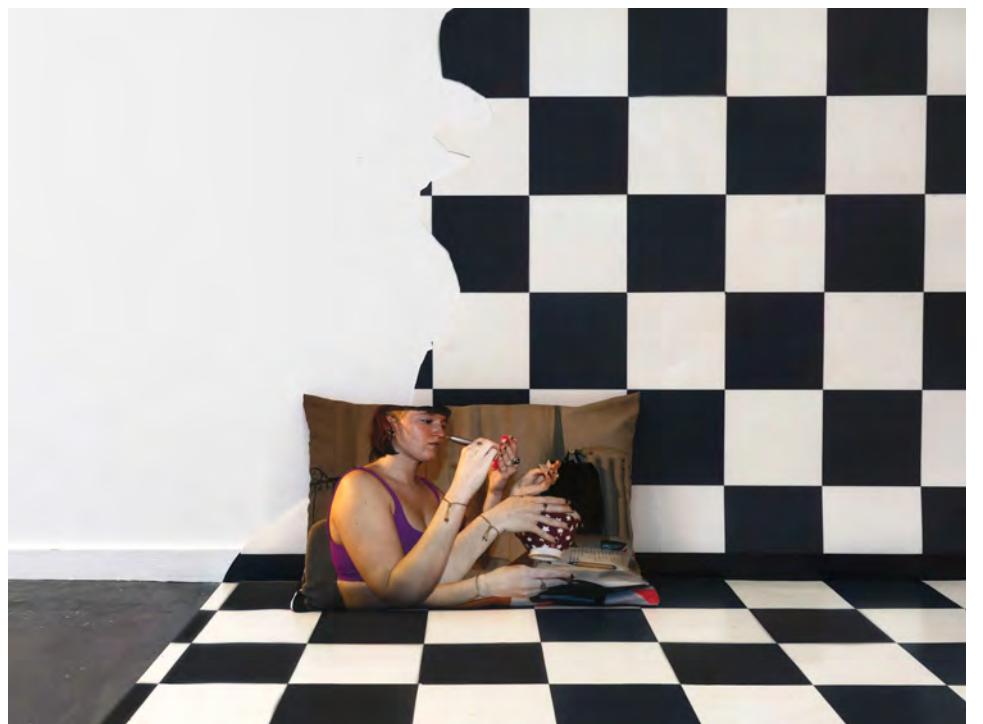
Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)



Lily Pellaud (*2000) reflects in her installation piece *Untitled (and overworked)* the ambiguous state of hyper-productivity. On the one hand, often considered as a precondition for creativity or mythologized in 'the creativity chaos', on the other, driven by neoliberal narratives of self-realization. The transfer of her domestic bedroom and workspace into the digital realm adds another layer, highlighting how the boundaries between life and work, privacy and publicity, not least between being on- and offline have become increasingly blurred.

Text : Gabrielle Schaad



Detail shots, ***Untitled (and overworked)***, NEST, Zurich, 2023



Installation view, ***Untitled (and overworked)***, NEST, Zurich, 2023

Prendre l'araignée par les cornes, 2023

Video installation

HD-video loop, 3'31", 16:9, color, sound

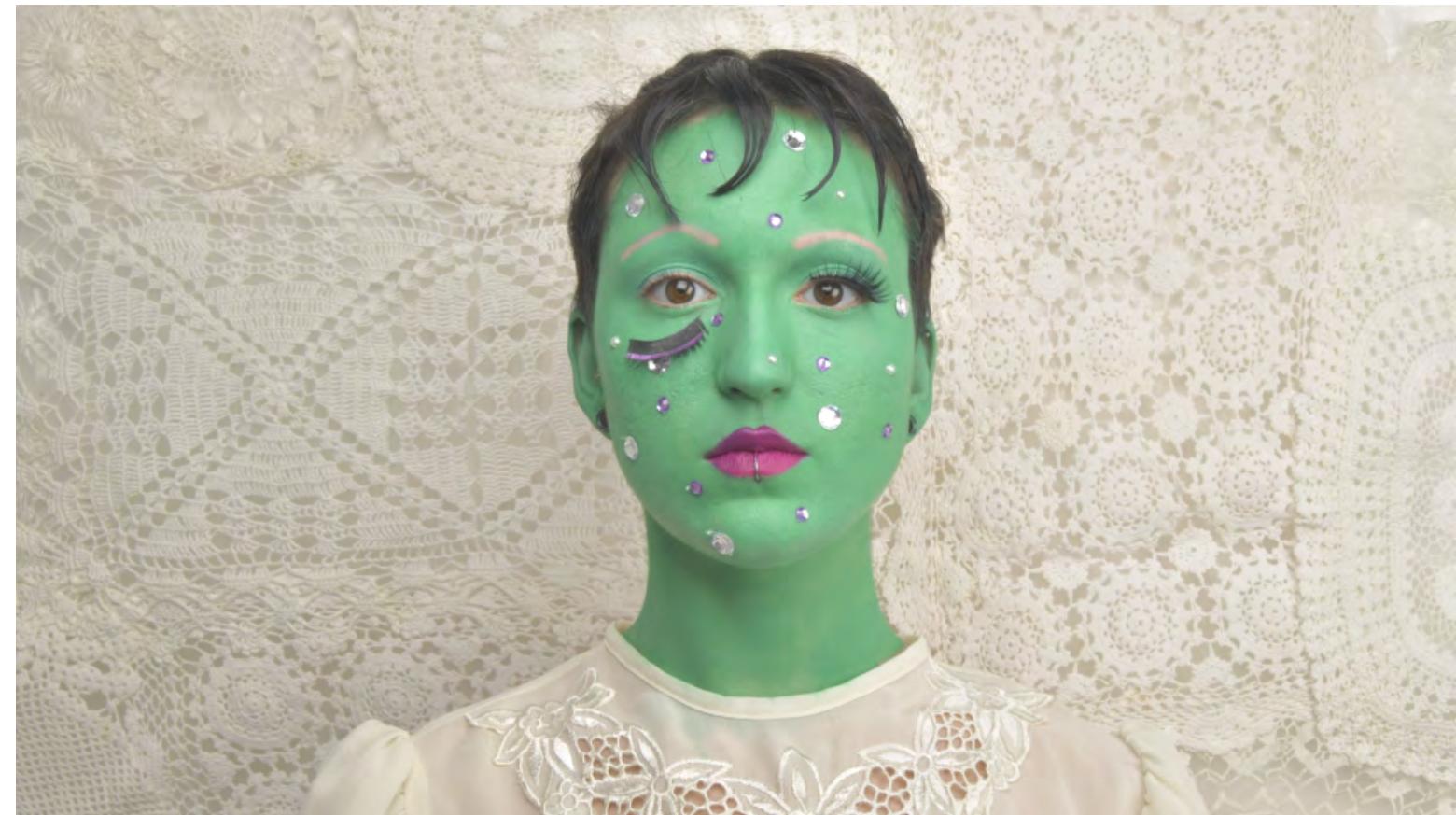
Paint, pvc floor, door, bench, curtain

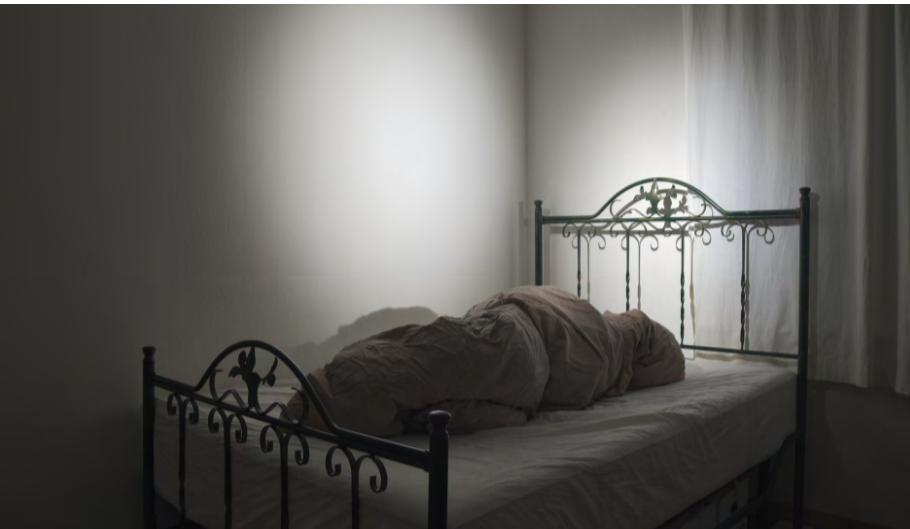
Dimensions variable

[Link to video](#)

Change is an inherent part of life and we might have just grown scared of it.

At a pivotal moment in my life, contemplating my future as an artist, I found myself not only overwhelmed by arising uncertainties but also navigating the physical change of location—a geographical displacement due to the loss of access to student accommodation. This disruption served as both a challenge and an inspiration for the artwork. Reflecting on how change has manifested in my life—both physically and creatively—I explored themes of growth, adaptation, and self-renewal.





Video stills, *Heivi in the mountains*, 2023



Installation view, *Prendre l'araignée par les cornes*, ZHdK, Zurich, 2023



Installation views, *Prendre l'araignée par les cornes*, ZHdK, Zurich, 2023