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Orian Barki & Meriem Bennani / 2 Lizards

September 24th till December 19th, 2021

Opening / Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, from 6 pm

Music on rooftops, birthday celebrations on Zoom and the ritual applause at 7 pm: in eight short episodes, the video series *2 Lizards* narrates the daily life in a pandemic. After the series has gone viral on Instagram and has been bought by the MoMA in New York shortly afterwards, it is now visible for the first time in an institutional setting in Germany at the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden.

Just like a majority of people, filmmaker **Orian Barki** and artist **Meriem Bennani** have been affected by quarantine measures and were looking for an outlet for the monotony that was growing with every new week in lockdown. They published the eight-part-videoseries **2 Lizards** on Instagram, which was inspired by everyday life and daily talks and experiences with their friends. What is special about it is that the characters of the series are all computer-animated animals; the protagonists are two lizards from Brooklyn, who have been synchronized by the two artists. Absurdly and at the same time close to reality, emotions and fears are depicted within this new reality, determined by the pandemic.

In a combination of documentary and fiction, the approximately three-minute-long videos thematize not only the changing emotional states during isolation and quarantine but also the social cracks and their overlapping with the systemic racism that has been revealed during the pandemic. Stories are told about nurses and protestors, about people who broke the suddenly demanded social distancing rules for the first time, and finally about those who surprisingly and unexpectedly found their peace, simply by staying at home.

In their video series, Orian Barki and Meriem Bennani capture a feeling of an entire generation that, especially because of the pandemic, increasingly uses social media as a medium of information and entertainment. After the series went viral on Instagram, reaching over half a million viewers, it was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. From **September 23rd, 2021**, follows the first institutional screening of the series in Germany at the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden.

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About the artists /

Meriem Bennani (*1988, Rabat, Morocco) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her BFA at Cooper Union in New York and her MFA at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including MoMA PS1, New York (2016), the Whitney Biennial, New York (2019), Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2019) and Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin (2020).

Orian Barki (*1985 in Israel) is a film producer from New York City. She studied film studies at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem and documentary film production at Hunter College in New York. She started working as a producer and cutter for Israeli television. Alongside her personal film projects, Barki also produces documentaries and commercials, among others in cooperation with Fader, Nowness, the New York Times, Adidas and Shell.

Thank you for your interest. For further information, we are available by phone or e-mail.

Press contact /

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The exhibition **Orian Barki & Meriem Bennani / 2 Lizards** is a cooperative project with the **exground filmfest 34 / November 12th till 21st, 2021**



The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is permanently institutionally supported by the Cultural Office of the Capital City of Wiesbaden.



Kulturamt



Prickelnd seit 1856



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Program /

The events take place in accordance with the Covid-19 containment measures ordinance valid at that time. Current information can be found at www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de.

OPENING /

Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, from 6 pm

SUNTALK /

Get off the couch!

Guided tour through the current exhibitions

Sundays, 3 pm

ESPRESSO /

Short and strong!

Short guided tour and espresso

Tuesdays, 12.45 am to 1.15 pm

SPRITZ /

Art, drinks and more!

Thursdays, 6 to 8 pm

KIDS INSIDE /

For all / with Titus Grab or Larissa Frömel

Last Saturday of the month, 11 am to 1 pm

September 25th, 2021

October 30th, 2021

November 27th, 2021

WILHELMS WANNE /

Interactive tour / From 8-88 years

Second Saturday of the month, 3 to 5 pm

October 9th, 2021

November 13th, 2021

December 11th, 2021

FINISSAGE /

Sunday, December 19th, 2021, 3 to 6 pm

exground filmfest 34 /

November 12th till 21st, 2021

Further information can be found at www.exground.com

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Press Images /

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Orian Barki & Meriem Bennani

2 Lizards
Video still
2020

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and C L E A R I N G, New York / Brussels



Orian Barki & Meriem Bennani

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2020

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