JOSEPHINE PRYDE
The Splits
EXHIBITION FROM OCTOBER 21ST 2023 TO FEBRUARY 4TH 2024

From Wednesday to Saturday, 2 p.m – 6 p.m and Sunday 11 a.m – 6 p.m.  
Admission free.

Guided tour every Sunday at 4 p.m.
INTRODUCTION

In preliminary discussions with the artist, the curator expressed enthusiasm for an exhibition exclusively of photography. He felt that not only had there never been such a display in the building, but he also remained interested in how Josephine Pryde deployed photography in her artwork, perceiving in it various types of resonance and slippage with respect to what he would otherwise assume to be more mundane characteristics of the medium. Josephine Pryde made several visits to the centre d’art contemporain – la synagogue de Delme, and came to agree with him that an exhibition containing only photographs would be indeed the direction to take.

*The Splits* is the result. In it, you will see frames containing one, two or four images, using mirroring and repetition of motifs throughout. Yet the images are also different from one another, are frequently juxtaposed against each other inside one frame, and fall into four distinct categories, which, for the sake of convenience, have been called: *Foreboding*, *Dilemma*, *Instrument*, and *Split* (or, *Sand*).

There are several views of two different, but both elaborate, hairstyles. These were created by Sergio Renis, an accomplished hairdresser invited by the artist. The model was Laffy, from the uns* talent agency. The creations are shot from behind, each under different lighting arrangements. They are not the sort of hairstyle you would usually prepare to wear down the street. Are they art? Where is fashion? They sit, prosthetic, a self turned into a haircut. The lighting, in combination with the materials and forms, gives variously an impression of powdery tumours of aristocratic dust, artifice pocked by airy cloud, or of wired-up natural fronds, streaked through with blurry, slippery strands of underwater alienation.

These images are punctuated by panels showing sand, as if to provide both an interruption and a ground, with slight movements perceptible across frames. Visible in some is the slim edge of what could be a phone – with a jack socket, so not new – a model that, while ageing, is still in use, rising here from the surface of the grains, shot soft, rotating, on vibrate.

Where to perceive the *Splits* of the title? The composition of this very text with which to announce the exhibition has proven a challenge in respect to battling dissociation. How not to forget about the artwork while promoting the show? How to acknowledge the materials used through all stages? How to develop theories derived from that experience, as well as from the sight of the work, its level of content, its production and forthcoming installation, and to put all this into language for distribution? How to navigate the mutations, the multiplications, the flips and juxtapositions that are the
properties of images, of files, of scans, of photographs? The potentials of infinity? How to take a long, hard look at the impulse in such texts to insist upon something that would call itself ‘relevance’? Relevance to time, to space, to technology… How on earth? Relevance, a word with its roots in a raising up, and a repeating of same, an etymology which recalls the strain to elevate, in order to make claims, in order to send a petition to belong to the present. But the present fragments! The petition is ineligible!

The Splits experiments in the field of such questions and exclamations, through deployment of barely perceptible displacements and repetitions, through the example of some hair fashions, and their confections and contrivances – becoming merely one site of appeal amidst the dislocated communications of an unsettled present.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Josephine Pryde (UK, 1967) graduated from Central Saint Martin’s School of Art, London. Her artistic practice has drawn on photography, sculpture, writing and performance in order to variously reflect upon and question images and the attendant technologies, frameworks and desires of their making. She lives and works in Berlin, where she also teaches at the University of the Arts.
Works in the exhibition:

1. *Dilemmas I*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x106 cm

2. *Dilemmas II*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x97 cm

3. *Dilemmas III*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x97 cm

4. *Splits (or, Sand) I*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x106 cm

5. *Dilemmas IV*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x106 cm

6. *Instruments/Dilemmas I*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x106 cm

7. *Dilemmas V*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x97 cm

8. *Forebodings I*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x97 cm

9. *Forebodings II*, 2023
   Archival pigment print.
   72,3x106 cm

10. *Instruments/Forebodings I*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

11. *Instruments I*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

12. *Forebodings III*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

13. *Forebodings IV*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

14. *Forebodings V*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

15. *Splits (or, Sand)/Forebodings I*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

16. *Forebodings/Splits (or, Sand) I*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm

17. *Splits (or, Sand) II*, 2023
    Archival pigment print.
    72,3x106 cm
BIBLIOGRAPHY

REFERENCE BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE GUE(HO)ST HOUSE


TO CONTINUE THE TOUR

THE GUE(HO)ST HOUSE
Space for documentation and public activities
Bookshop
Art Library, artothèque Grand Est/plus vite
Artistic and cultural projects

THE SYNAGOGUE
Exhibition space

Town Hall of Delme

Raymond Poincaré street

PUBLIC PROGRAM

TEACHERS MEETING
Teachers will be welcomed by Camille Grasser, head of Public Programs, and Dorian Masiello, representative teacher, for an introduction to the exhibition The Splits.
Thursday October 26th 2023 from 11 to 12.30 a.m.

GUIDED TOUR BY BENOÎT LAMY DE LA CHAPELLE, DIRECTOR OF THE ART CENTER
Wednesday November 1st 2023 at 3 p.m.
Free, admission not required.

WEEKLY TOUR
Guided tour of the exhibition The Splits.
Every Sunday at 4 p.m.
Free, admission not required.

EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP, SUBLIMATE THE MATERIALS WITH MARGOT AGNUS, EMBROIDERER ARTIST
Josephine Pryde’s photographs seem to stage metamorphoses involving the body and nature. In dialogue with the artist’s universe, materials and textures will be central to the workshop lead by Margot Agnus, embroiderer artist. Margot Agnus takes traditional Haute Couture embroidery techniques and applies them to other media and materials. Inspired by curiosity cabinets, vanities and witchcraft, her creations explore feelings of attraction-repulsion, and the relationship between inside and outside. A precious monstrous universe where organic materials mingle with beads, threads and sequins to turn the eye into a tactile organ.
Saturday December 2nd 2023, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Free, admission at 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org
THE “NUITS DE LA LECTURE”
Readings of poems and texts, inspired by Josephine Pryde's photographs, and imagined by students in the CHAAP art class at Delme's Collège André Malraux, who will stage their readings in the synagogue's exhibition space, in dialogue with the artist's works. The event is part of the “NuIts de la lecture” (Reading Nights) organized by the National Book Center at the instigation of the French Ministry of Culture, from January 18th to January 21st 2024, this year on the theme of the body.
Find out more about the program of the evening, organized in partnership with Delme's intercommunal médiathèque ludothèque and the Roseaux Pensant bookshop in Château-Salins, on the art center's website.
Friday January 19th 2024 at 6 p.m.
Free, open to all.

LECTURE-VISIT “CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY”
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LORRAINE, SCIENCE WITH AND FOR THE SOCIETY.
The lecture-visits provide an opportunity to cross-fertilize knowledge around a common theme and to open up the artist's reflections by calling on other fields (science, history, botany...).
More details coming soon.
Saturday January 20th 2024, from 2.30 to 4 p.m.
Free, admission at 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org

WORKSHOPS

BOUT'CHOUX TOUR > FROM 1 TO 3 YEARS OLD
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD RELAY OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE SAULNOIS
Discovery of the current exhibition The Splits through a sensitive approach of the artworks: observation, listening, experimentation.
An exploration filled with emotions and sensations!
Wednesday December 6th 2023 from 10 to 10.45 a.m.
Free. Admission required: rpe@cc-saulnois.fr or 03 87 01 17 88

HAND-IN-HAND WORKSHOP > PARENTS AND CHILDREN AGED 5-12
For children aged 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents, the art center is offering a workshop! Little ones and bigger ones can come and share a convivial moment playfully discovering works of art.
Saturday November 25th 2023 from 3 to 4.30 p.m.
Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org

“BIG IDEAS SMALL HANDS” WORKSHOPS > FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-11
Led by a mediator and artist Katia Mourer, these workshops allow children to discover the current exhibition through a playful, concrete approach to the exhibited works.
On Wednesdays, November 8th, December 20th 2023 and January 24th 2024 from 2 to 5 p.m.
Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 43 42 or accueil@cac-synagoguedelme.org

PLAY-WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERCOMMUNAL MÉDIATHÈQUE LUDOTHÈQUE DE DELME > CHILDREN AGED 7 AND UP
Play-workshop about the exhibition The Splits.
Wednesday January 10th 2024 from 9.30 to 11 am.
Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 39 91.
INFORMATIONS

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS
From Wednesday to Saturday, 2 pm - 6 pm and Sunday 11am - 6pm.
Admission free.
Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.
The CAC will be open on November 1st and 11th 2023 and closed from December 23rd 2023 to January 2nd 2024 included.

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COORDONNÉES
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PARTNERS
The CAC – la synagogue de Delme obtained the label « Contemporary art center of national interest ».
The art center is a member of DCA/association française de développement des centres d’art, Arts en résidence – French national network, BLA! association nationale des professionnel·le·s de la médiation en art contemporain and Plan d’Est – visual arts pole Grand Est.
The CAC – la synagogue de Delme receives support from