



## Uncertain Identities

### Connecting London and Altdorf and the large spaces in-between

Saturday 30 September 11.30 am – 6.30 pm

This symposium at Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf with presentations, screenings and performances brings together artists, curators and art historians to discuss the many connections between London and Altdorf and ideas around identity, migration and transnational movements. Organised by **Damian Christinger** and **Monica Ursina Jäger**. Event in English with German translations.

#### Program

11.30 Welcome

11.40 Introduction **Damian Christinger**, freelance curator and writer CH

12.00 **Daniel Kurjakovic**, art historian, curator Kunstmuseum Basel CH

12.30 **Felicity Lunn**, director Kunsthaus Pasquart Biel UK/CH

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00 **Emily Rosemond**, artist UK

14.30 **Monica Ursina Jäger**, artist CH/UK

15.00 **Sarah Zürcher**, art historian and freelance curator CH

15.30 **Blue Curry**, artist UK

Break

16.30 **Brigitte Dätwyler**, artist CH

17.00 **Nicole Bachmann**, artist UK/CH

17.30 **Robert Isaac Steinberger**, artist CH

18.00 Conclusions and Round Table

Free event, registration until 27 September: [assistenz@kunstverein-uri.ch](mailto:assistenz@kunstverein-uri.ch)

In the first issue of *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* (1994), Nina Glick-Schiller pointed out that issues of identity and culture had emerged to be central to “the current historical moment”. The journal wanted to “explore the relationship between racial, ethnic and power hierarchies within national and global arenas and the multiple processes by which cultural representation, domination and resistance are embedded in social relationships”. More than 20 years later - the parallel trend to globalization, the shift from the old imperial peripheries to the post-imperial metropolitan centres changes the post Cold War world order constantly and permanently. New technological possibilities have changed our notion of time, spatial perception and the boundaries of our selves. Current artistic practises reflect these shifts and general uneasiness, as our identities are uncertain.

The other great contribution by Nina Glick-Schiller besides the founding of the above mentioned journal to sociology was to coining the term transmigrant, which is used to describe mobile subjects that create and sustain multiple social relations that link together their societies of origin and residence. These mobile subjects are now viewed as transnational migrants or transmigrants to distinguish them from migrants and immigrants. An interesting concept, that has never been fully applied to art, its objects and artists.

The histories connecting London and Altdorf are manifold and diverse, linked to the discovery of the Alps as a frontier within the European continent and a garden like Eden within an Empire, to the industrialisation and the machines that propelled it forward, as well as to tourism as an industry and a state of mind. This symposium aims to revisit these histories while rethinking our roles within a globalized world.

London is thriving as a truly global city, attracting foreign investments and foreign talent, while its residents must find a way to deal with the post-Brexit blues. One important factor in the vote to leave, was a new and strange nationalism, that is sweeping Europe as a whole. Switzerland has the role of a kind of avant-garde for nationalists from Hungary to Germany, all claiming that they want to copy the Swiss model. But is Switzerland truly a self-sustained paradise, a successful “nation of the will”?

Artists, curators and other cultural workers are still trying to come to terms with these developments that could be described as a backlash to what Europeans think of globalization. The questions at the core of this are: who are we? And if we are, who do we want to be? Could we be transmigrants without realizing it and what would be a transmigratory state of mind?

This symposium coincides with the exhibition ‘London meets Altdorf’ at Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf Switzerland. Participating artists: Nicole Bachmann, Pascal Danz, Luigina Dapit, Monica Ursina Jäger, Marc Latzel, Rachel Lumsden, Martina von Meyenburg, Romeo Vendrame, ‘Hörstation’ with a Discography by Jean- Martin Büttner