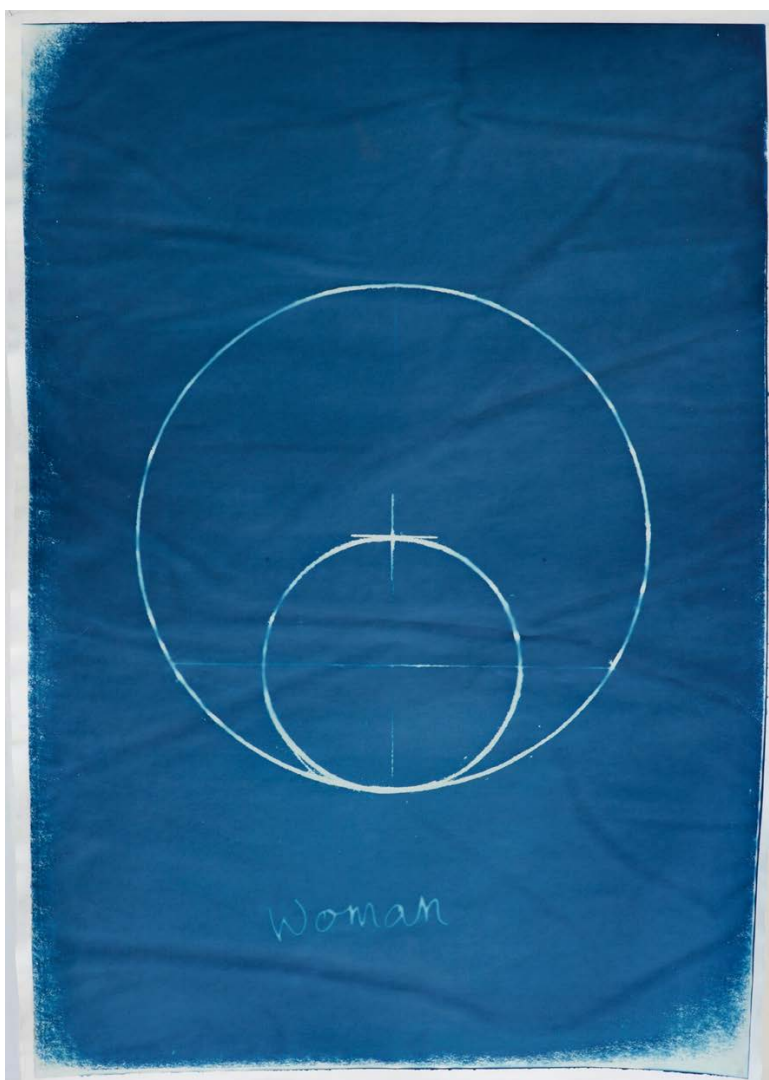


DAWN NILO

Blueprints

Sept 11 – Oct 16, 2021



Dawn Nilo
Woman, 2020
Cyanotype on paper

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Blueprint is a series of 14 cyanotype prints. When read from left to right the complete series is a poem that suggests a blueprint for the formation of the body – from coming into being out of nothing, to walking. Read backwards it describes the process of death. It also illustrates the geometric construction of a pentagram, the Hermetic symbol for the human body that represents the power of the spirit to bring the elements into balance and harmony. As a soul exercise it invites one to inwardly imagine what happens in between the fixed graphic forms, thus developing the imaginative capacities using a method that is inspired by meditation exercises on metamorphosis and geometry in movement.

The original sketches for Blueprint were drawn in pencil on paper and digitally scanned for print in the electronic book, *The Question*, which was published by artist Paul Chan's Badland's Unlimited in 2014. The image files were then reversed, printed as negative transparencies and developed in the sun using cyanotype, an analogue printing process using chemicals and exposure to ultraviolet light. *The Question* was republished in print by Nilo Press in 2019 through the support of Kultur Basel-Stadt and the Edith Maryon Foundation.

The Question ... is a book of poetry that includes sketches for a series of fourteen cyanotype prints displayed on the wall (Blueprint, 2017). These are in effect blueprints, a mode of existence that changes everything in the sense that a blueprint is a unique process which situates itself between drawing and photography. It needs light to exist, and if it fades, putting it back in the sunlight restores the blue and gives life to any motif, line or shape that has been imprinted on it. The series of blueprints can be read as a sequence as the viewer travels alongside the wall: it goes from beginning to end, from birth to death, and enacts a lifecycle. Everything born into existence perishes. However, things, people, animals, plants, objects do generate themselves. And very often, novelty comes in: new patterns, new ways of doing and ways of seeing come up. New assemblages of "DNA", propelled by metamorphosis, changing situations and necessary criticality. Catherine Malabou has written in this sense on the present situation we are navigating through, heavily touched by artificial intelligence. We can develop strategies to deal with an increasing seizure of the mind and body by digitalization (some refer to this phenomenon as a new version of colonization).⁹ Donna Haraway speaks of this ongoing process, as well as that of the environmental crisis, as demanding a necessary attitude: "Stay with the trouble", says she.¹⁰ Facing chaos is the best way to go beyond. Dawn Nilo inscribes geometric diagrams of all shapes and sorts on her blueprints. These are translations of different transitional states and constitute a cartography of the mind/body question, the question of existence itself. The composer Charles Ives called it the "unanswered question". This work projects us into the cosmic

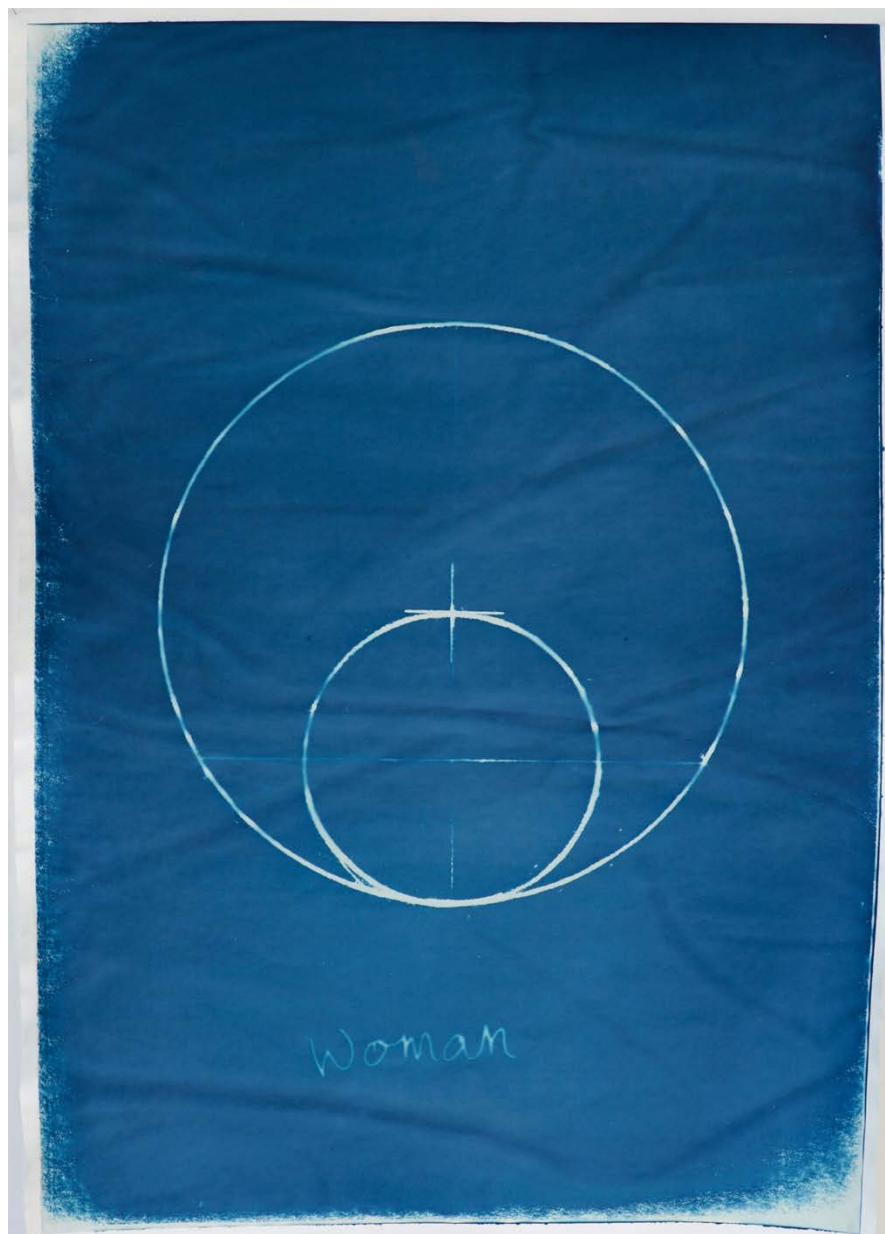


1129 EAST HASTINGS
VANCOUVER, BC V6A 1S3
+1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WAAPART.COM

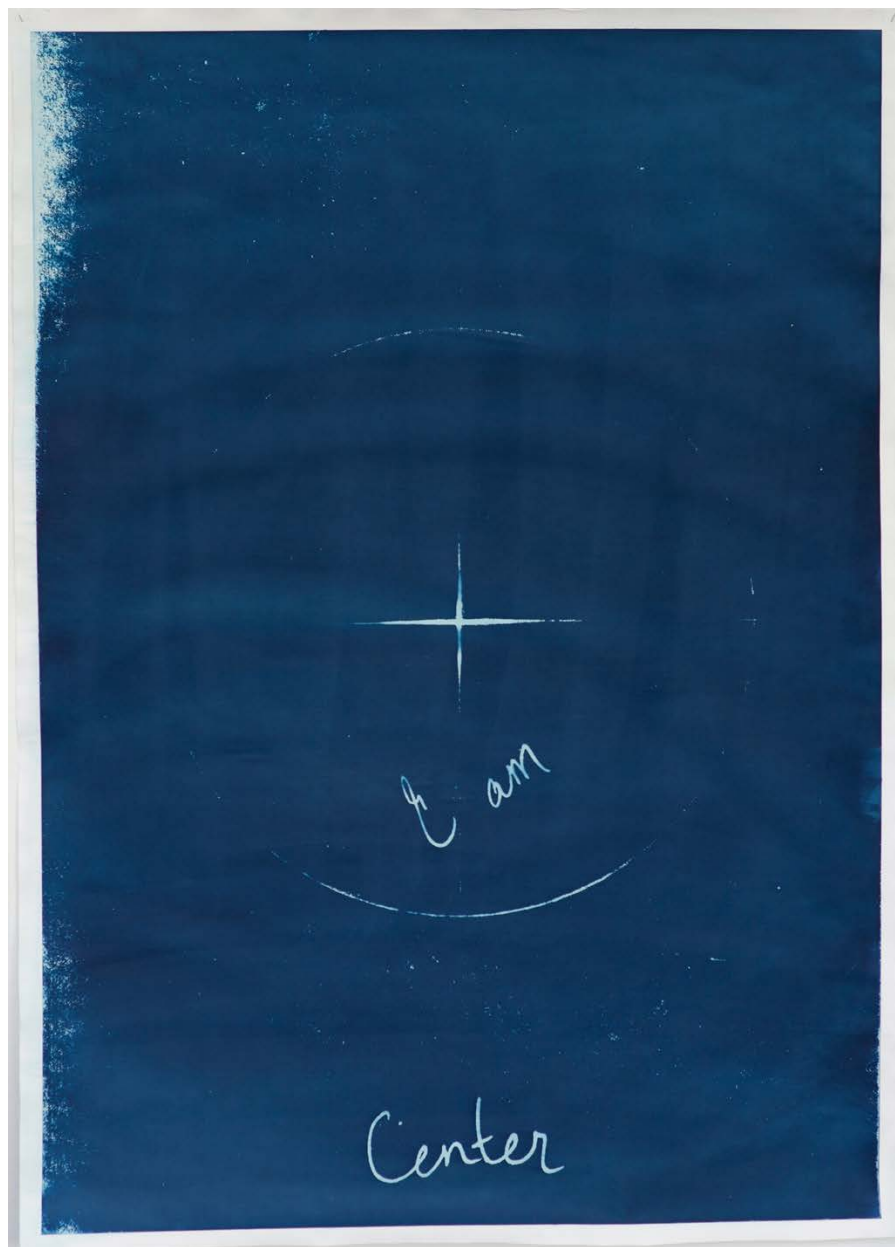
realm. And what is the cosmos, if not that space that every bit of DNA in us is linked to, part of.

Text excerpt: "From Navigation to Negotiations : Back and Forth" by Chantal Pontbriand

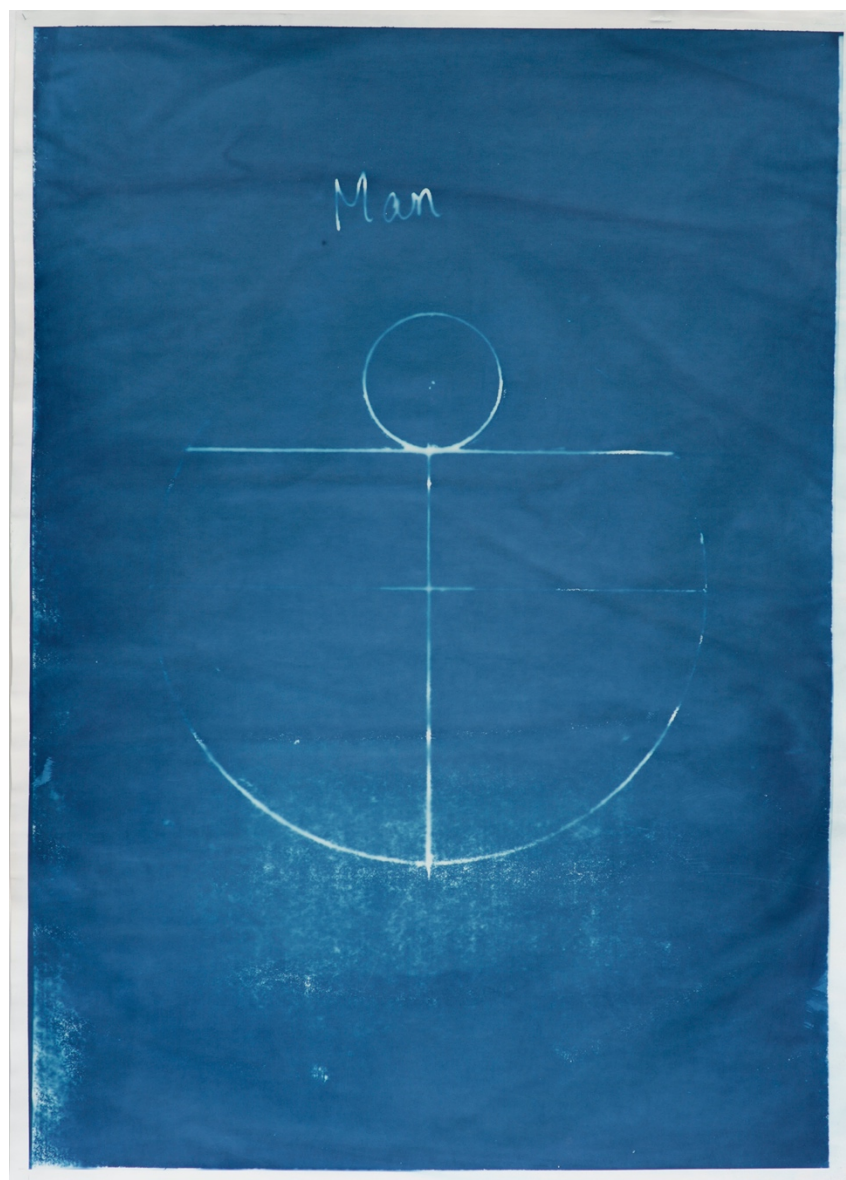
Dawn Nilo
Woman, 2020
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



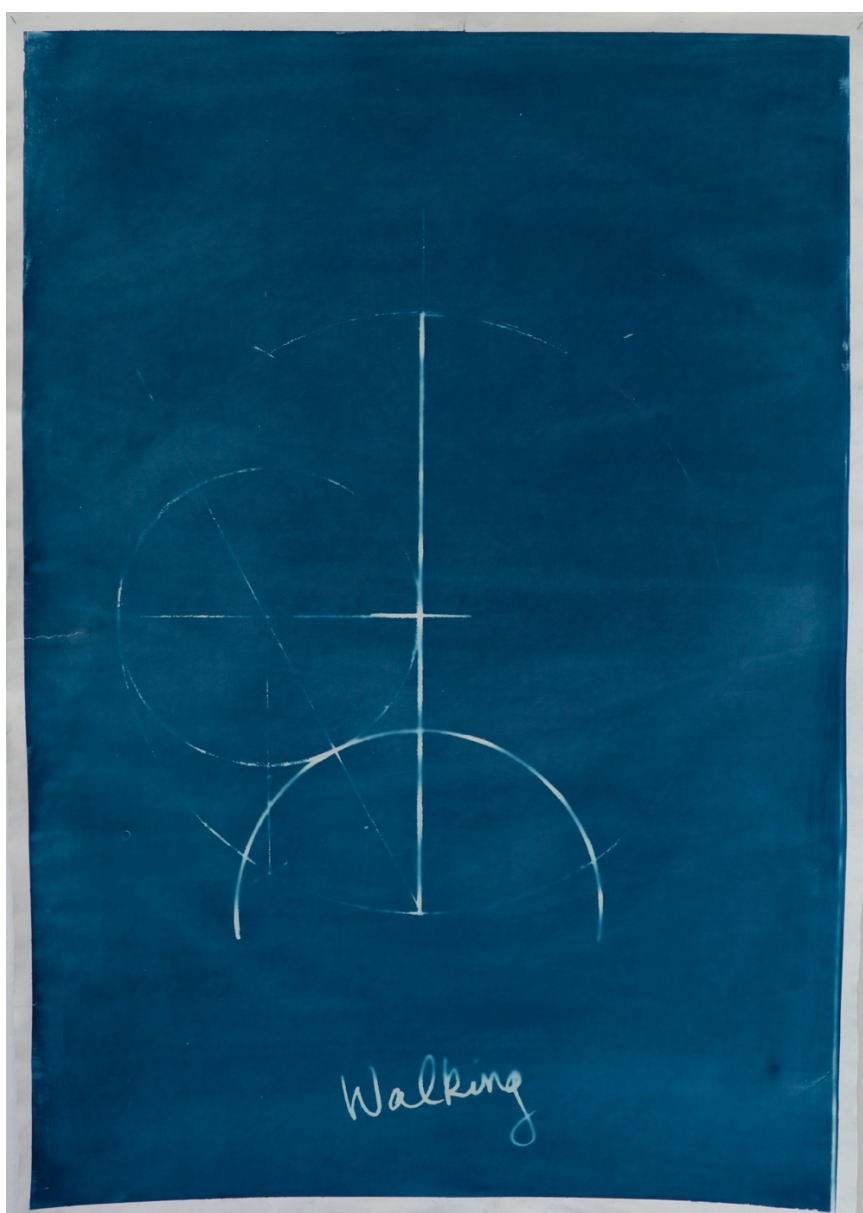
Dawn Nilo
I am Center, 2020
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Man, 2020
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Walking, 2020
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Circus of the Soul, 2021
QR Code on Vinyl
Video: 3min 30 sec.



Dawn Nilo
Boaz (painting skin no. 1), 2018
Acrylic on canvas
Variable dimensions



Dawn Nilo
No. 7 (painting skin), 2021
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 77 in (152.4 x 195.6 cm)



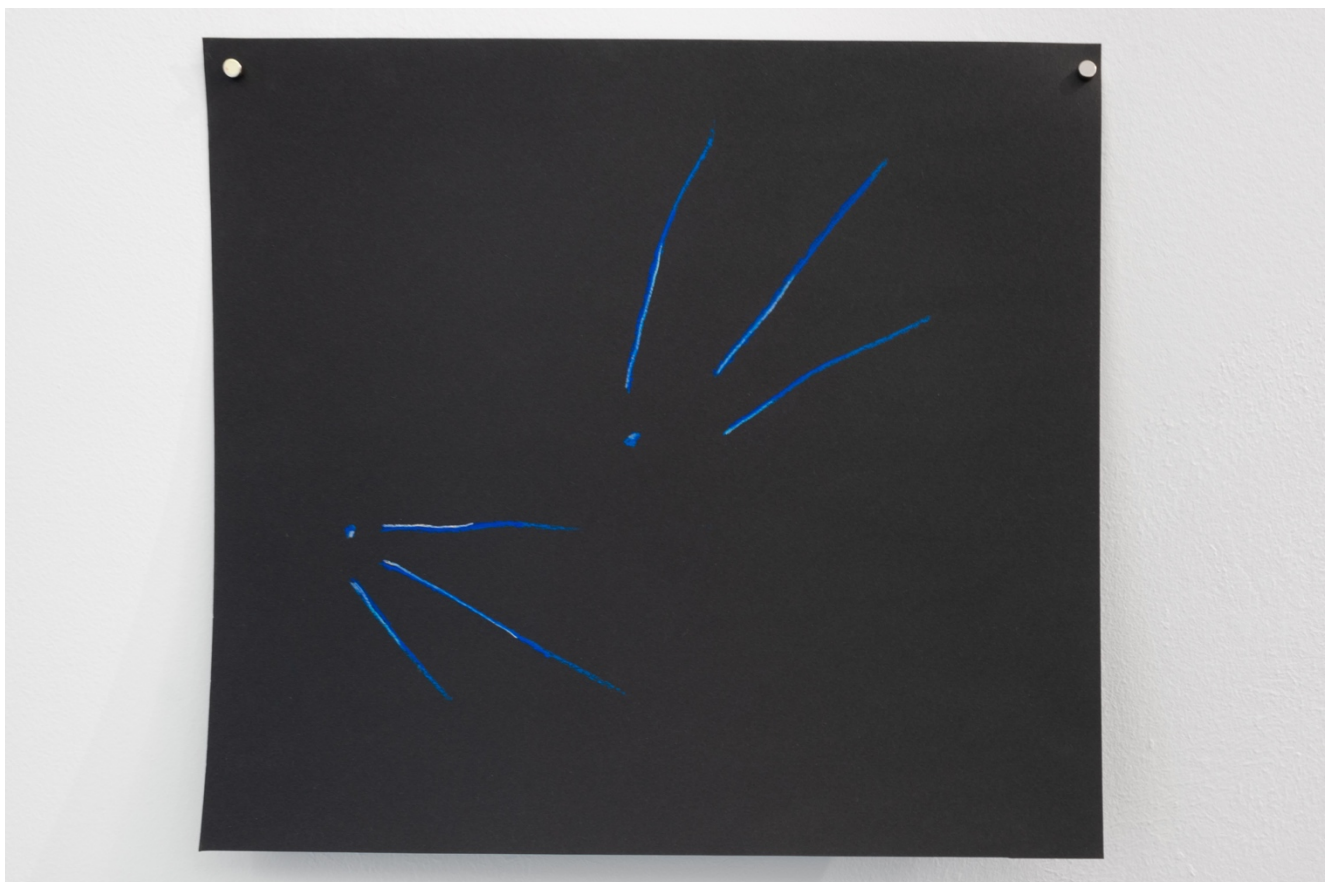
Dawn Nilo
No. 8 (painting skin), 2021
Acrylic on canvas
53.5 x 70 in (135.9 x 177.8 cm)
WAAP 1653



Dawn Nilo
Up, 2021
Chalk on paper
13.5 x 13.5 in (34.3 x 34.3 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Emanation, 2021
Chalk on paper
13 x 11.75 in (33 x 29.8 cm)



Dawn Nilo, *Blueprints*, Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021



Dawn Nilo, *Blueprints*, Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021



Dawn Nilo, *Blueprints*, Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021



Dawn Nilo, *Blueprints*, Exhibition view, Wil Aballe Art Projects | WAAP, 2021



OTHER WORKS

Dawn Nilo

Blueprints (1), 2020

Series: group of 10

Cyanotype on paper

48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



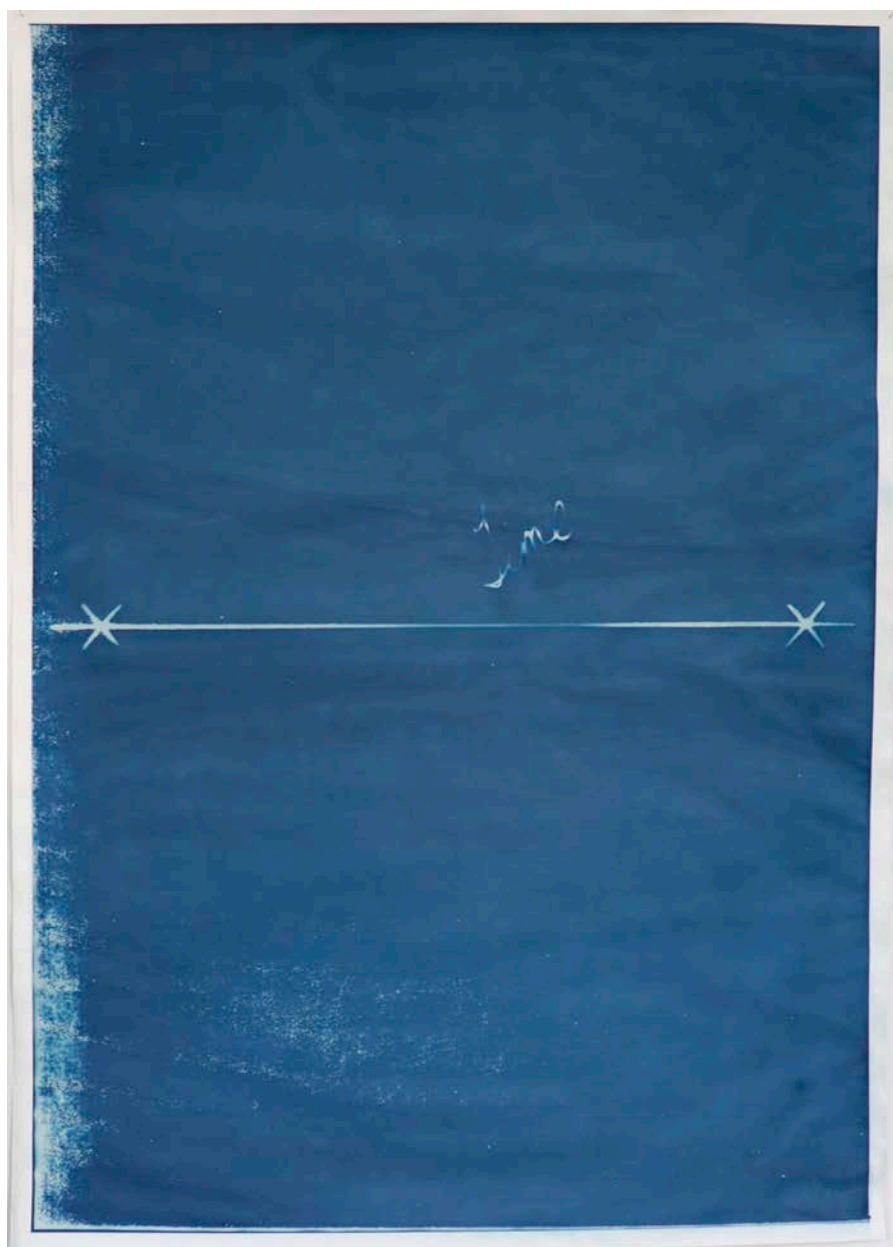
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (2), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



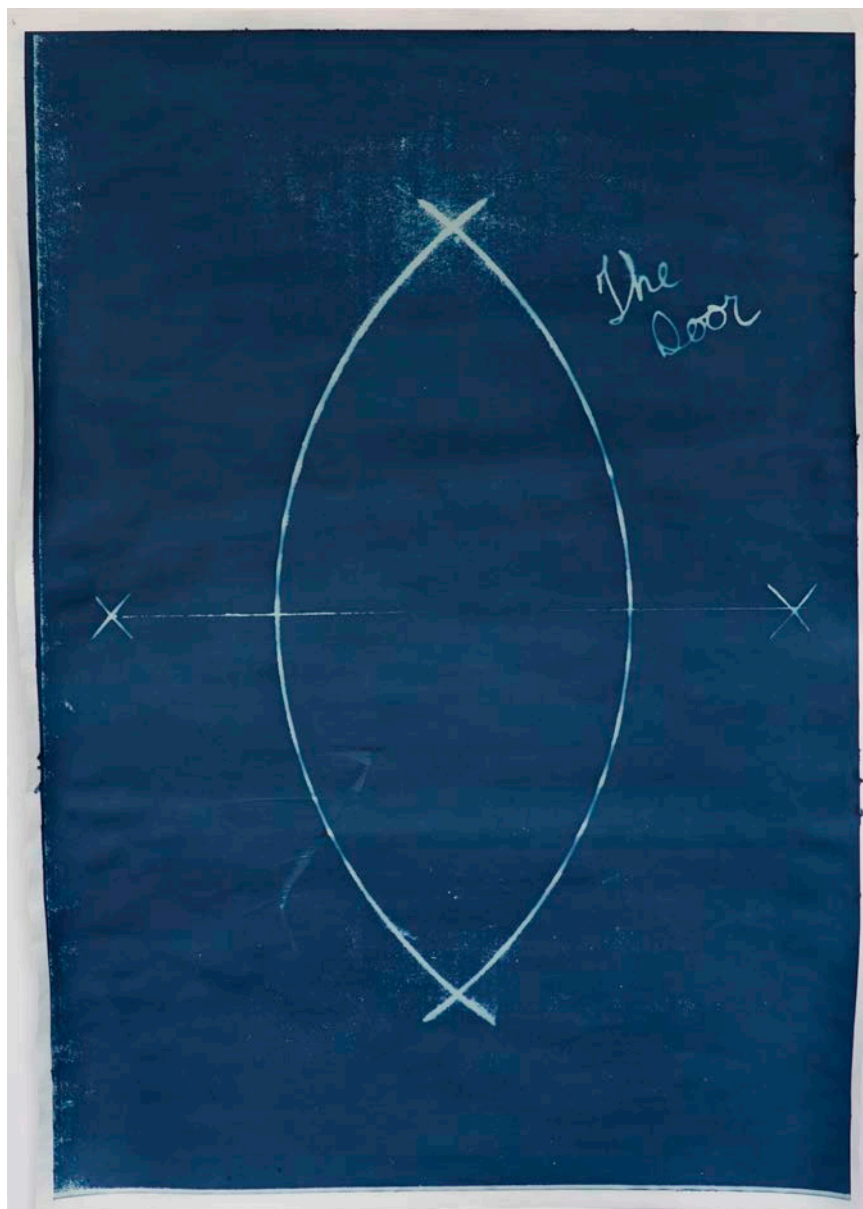
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (3), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



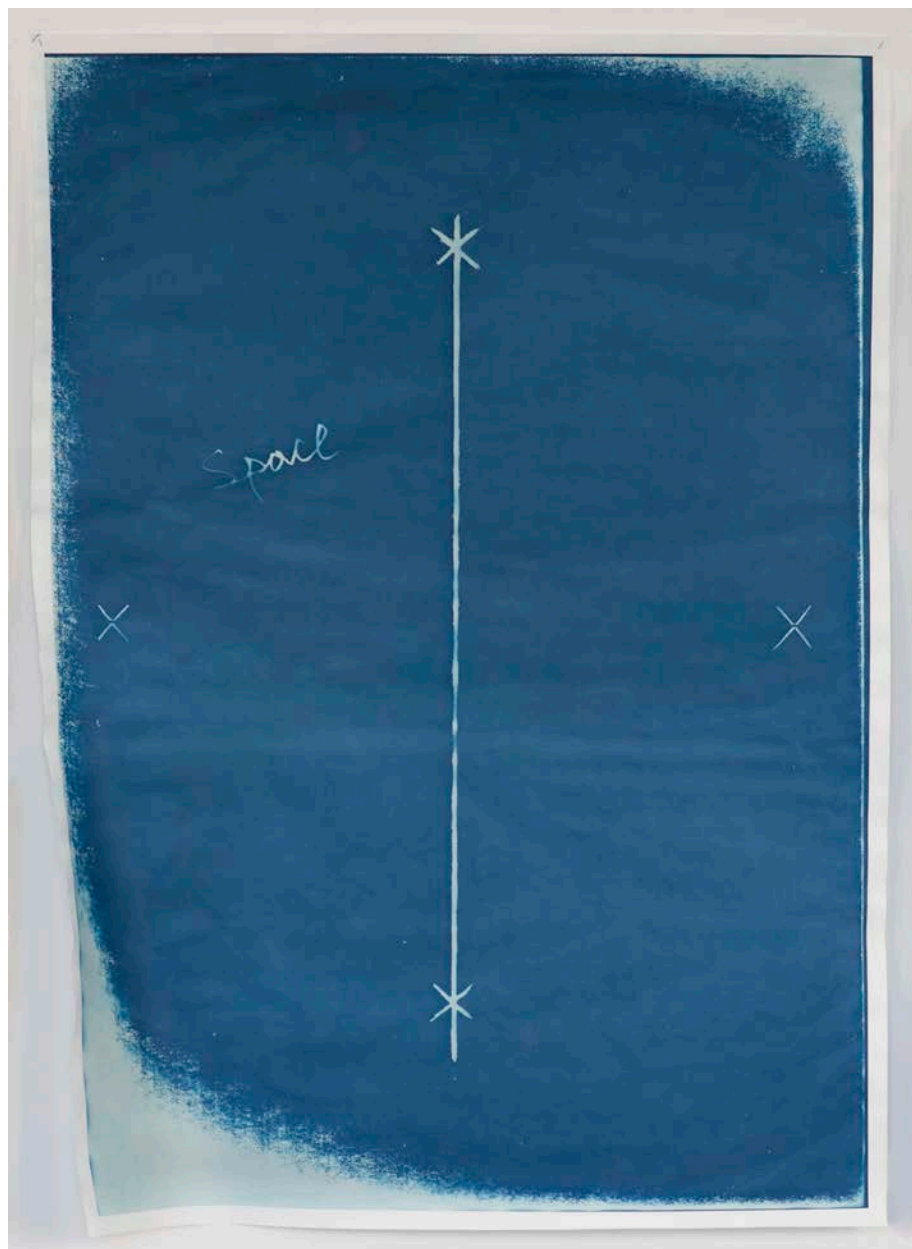
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (4), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



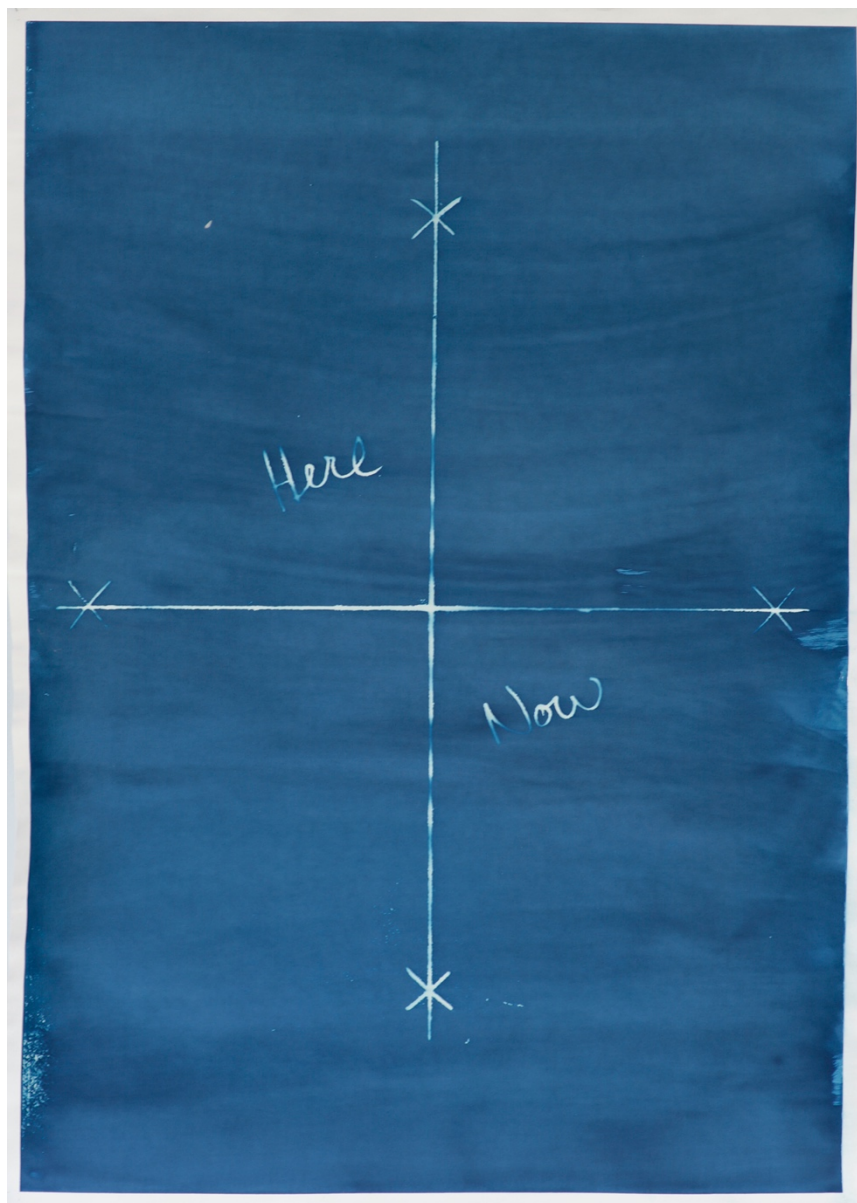
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (5), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



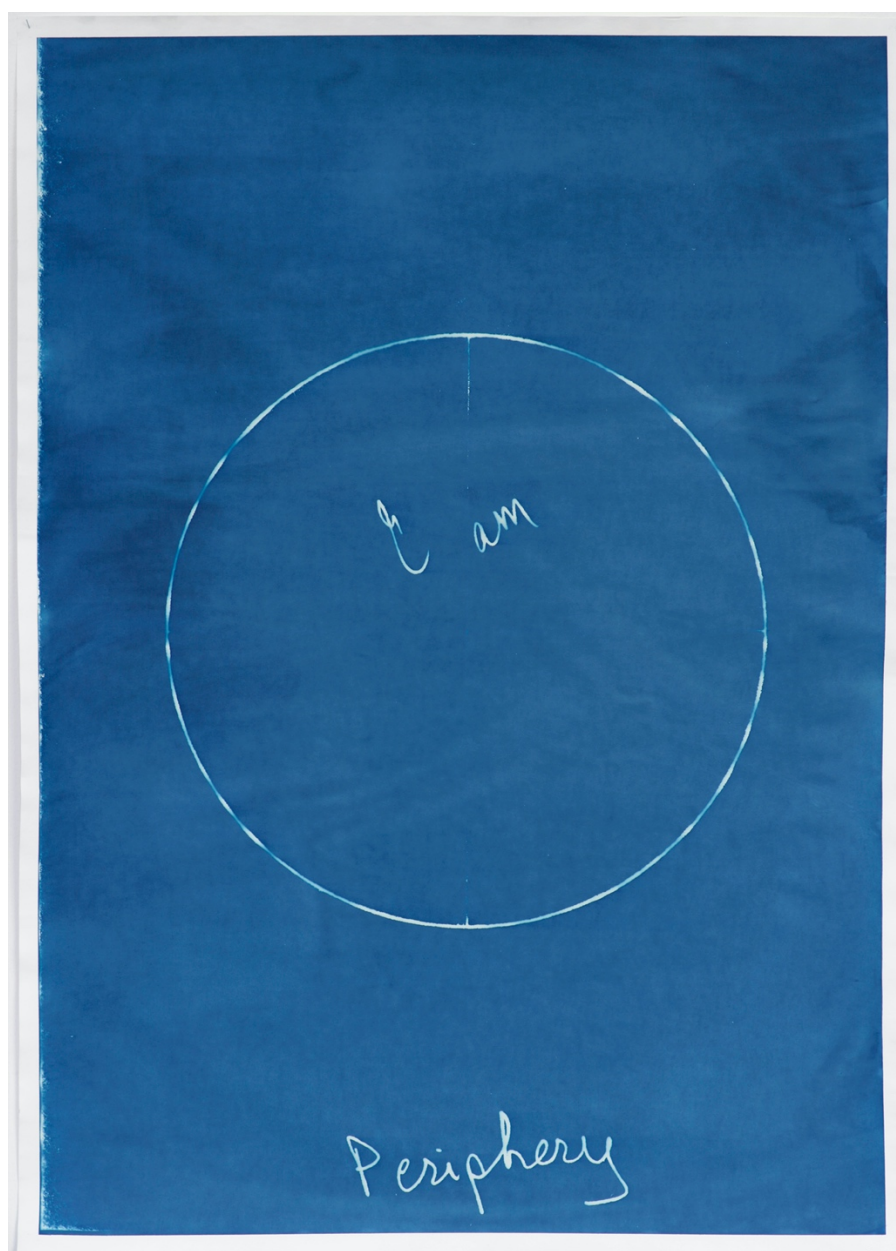
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (6), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (7), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



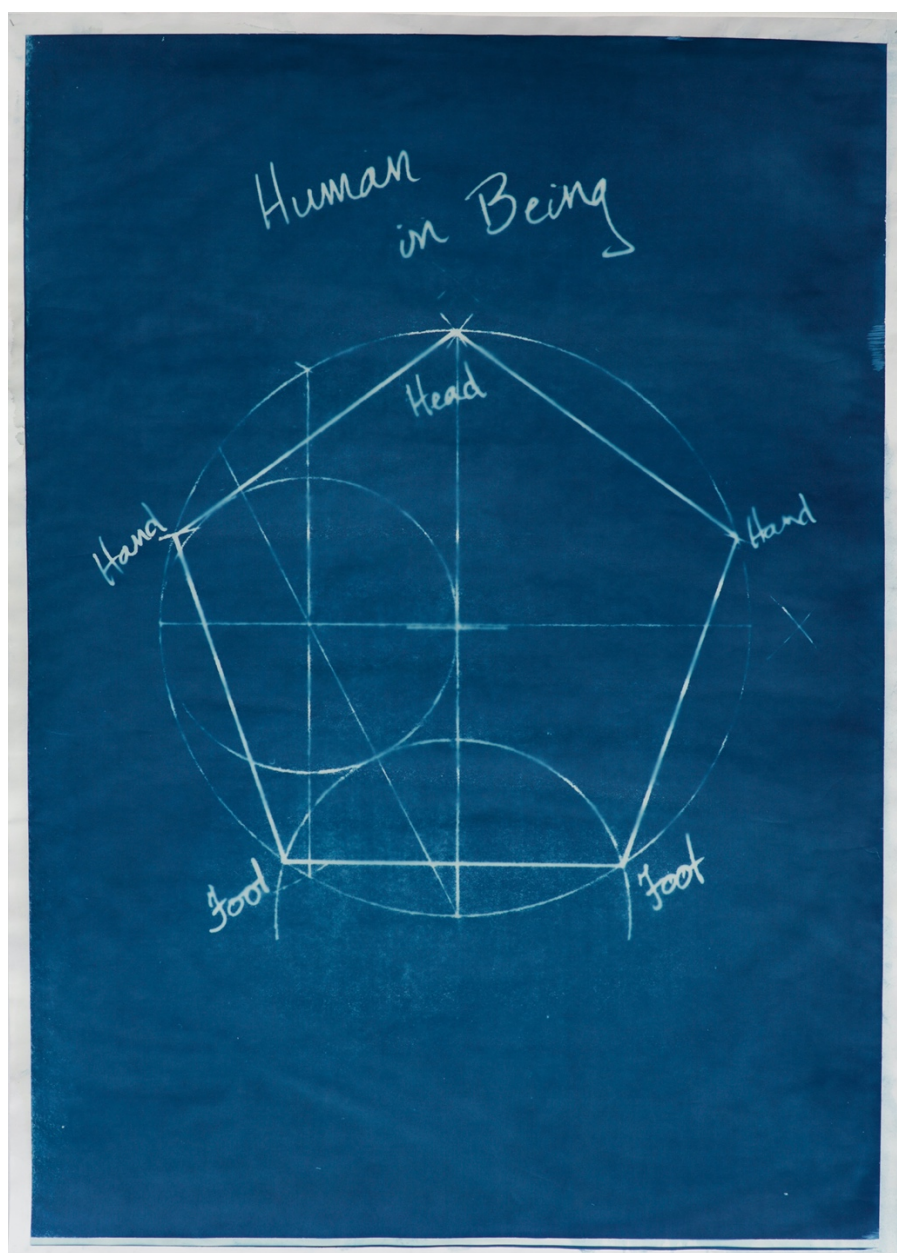
Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (8), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (9), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



Dawn Nilo
Blueprints (10), 2020
Series: group of 10
Cyanotype on paper
48 x 34 in (121.9 x 86.4 cm)



ABOUT THE ARTIST

DAWN NILO, born in 1968 in North Vancouver Canada, and based in Basel Switzerland, received her MFA from the Basel Art Institute in 2016. Inspired by the archetypes of the alchemist and the fool, she writes poems in performances and visual art that explore the opposites of knowing and not knowing as intelligent absurd naiveté. Her work has been exhibited or performed at institutions such as the Schaulager, Kunsthaus Baselland, Kunsthalle Basel and the Gessneralle in Switzerland; the Leopold Museum and Volx/Margarethen Theatre in Austria and the Gerdarsafn-Kóopavogur Museum in Iceland. Some excerpts from her career include a nomination for the Swiss Art Award (2020) and Swiss Performance Art Award (2017), a danceWeb scholarship (Vienna 2016), a GGG Atelier Stipendium (Basel 2016-18) and a Kultur Basel-Stadt project grant (2018). Her work has been represented by Contemporary Monk at the Brussels Gallery Weekend 2019 and Art Rotterdam 2020. Some of the artists and curators she has worked with include Tino Sehgal, Simone Forti, Paul Chan, John Giorno, Klaus Biesenbach, Tom Stromberg, Alice Wilke, Ines Goldbach, Poka-Yio and Chus Martinez.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

- 2020 Swiss Art Awards online exhibition
LE CAP, Saint-Fons, France, What can be shown, cannot be said, curated by Ekaterina Shcherbakova
Jahresaustellung Solothurn, CH, yearly juried exhibition
The Kitchen Aufderhoehe, Arlesheim CH, Nilo & NILO, What Remains, Curatorial project with 18 curators.
Art Rotterdam, The Performance Show, Netherlands, curated by Zippora Elders.
Performing Negotiations. Represented by Monk Contemporary.
M54, Basel CH, Regionale 20, Curated by Isabel Balzer.
- 2019 A Performance Affair, Brussels Gallery Weekend, Belgium, Represented by Monk Contemporary and Balzer Projects.
Gerðarsafn - Kópavogur Art Museum, Iceland, Lots of tiny people, (2019/20) Curated by G. Helgadóttir, J. Bock, J. B.K Ransu and S. Gunnarsdóttir
Hidden Bar Art Basel, CH, Curated by Judith Kakon, Hannah Weinberger, and Alice Wilke.
Kunsthaus Baselland, CH, Contracted performances for Simone Forte.

- 2018 Nord Theatre, St. Louis FR, Regionale 19, Curated by A. Jutard & F. Darcy.
Kunst der Begegnung VII, Basel, CH. European/Asian Collaboration.
Liste Art Fair, Basel CH, with PANCH (Performance Art Network Switzerland)
American College of Art Gallery, North Athens, Greece, Rag to Rich. Curated by Poka-Yio.
- 2017 Kunsthau Baselland, CH, Regionale 18: Being Syntopic. Curated by Ines Goldbach and Poka-Yio.
Gessneralle Zurich, Swiss Performance Art Award
Foundation Beyeler, Riehen CH, Contracted solo performances for Tino Sehgal (This You).
- 2016 Leopold Museum, Vienna Austria, ImPulsTanz visual arts X dance series, A Moment in Time, Curated by Klaus Biesenbach and Tom Stromberg.
Volks/Margarethen Theater, Vienna Austria, The Great Game: REMEMBER WHY, Director.
Kunsthalle Basel, CH, Basel Basel Art Institute's Masters' Exhibit, curated by Chus Martinez and Lysann König.
Liste Art Fair, Basel CH, with Dr. Kuckucks Labrador.
Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg DE, Film Fridays.
- 2015 Filter4, Basel CH, The Kingdom of Fools, Curator/Director.
La Filature, Mulhouse F, Festival.mov.
The Kitchen aufderhöhe, Arlesheim CH, Moving Pictures w/ Sigrun Úa Bock.
- 2014 Schaulager, Basel Münchenstein CH, Blah Blah Blah Poetry Night.
Stadtgalerie, Bern CH, spoken words and spukende worte, w/ John Giorno.
The 3rd International Visual Festival of Patras Greece, Risk RE-CULTURE 3.
The Goetheanum, Basel CH, The Art of the Fool, Theater Director.

RESIDENCIES

GGG Atelier Haus, Basel CH, 2 year atelier residency for promising visual and performing artists (2016)
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, Residency, exhibit & artist's talk, (2016)

COLLECTIONS

Frédéric de Goldschmid Collections, Belgium.

GRANTS/AWARDS

Pro Helvetia event grant (2020)
Swiss Art Award Finalist (2020)
Visarte Corona Call Shortlist (2020)
Edith Maryon Stiftung Production Grant (2019)
Kultur Basel-Stadt Production Grant (2018)
Swiss Performance Art Award Finalist (2017)
ImpulsTanz, Vienna AT, danceWeb residency. with mentor Tino Sehgal. (2016)

PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

The Question, Arlesheim. Nilo Press, 2019. Print Book.
By Allan Smithee. WBrussels: Jan Mot Gallery Newspaper, 2016. No. 103. Web.
The Question: Poems. New York: Badlands Unlimited, 2014. Nov. 24. iBook.
Welcome to Wanita, Quasi Events, online journal of the Institut Kunst Basel, Oct. 5, 2014. Web.
This Time and Leaving, die Drei, June 2014: 94-101. Print.
Hoffmanniana, Das Goetheanum Nr. 47, November 24, article, 2012. Print.

PRESS

Reykjavík Grapevine, Issue 19, 2019, The Skeleton is The Seat of The Soul, by A. Rawlings, Print.
Women Cinemakers, Vol.6, Dawn Nilo, by Francis Quettier and Dora Tennant, Web.
<https://issuu.com/womencinemakersreview/docs/vol6/72>.
Das Goetheanum Nr. 36, September 4, 2015. Art and Science of the Fool, by M. Ronner & J. Bock, Print.
The English Show, Radio X 94.5 Basel CH, April 28, 2015 Interview with Dawn Nilo, by Kevin Richmond, Radio.

TEACHING

2014-2017



1129 EAST HASTINGS
VANCOUVER, BC V6A 1S3
+1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WAAPART.COM

University of Applied Sciences, and Arts Northwest Switzerland, College of Art and Design, Basel CH.,

Guest Presenter Teacher Training Institute, 2017; Associate Professor, Institute for Aesthetic Practice, Spring 2015 and Art Institute, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. 2008 Evergreen State College, Olympia WA, USA, Temporary Faculty [Instructor of record] Fall 2008).

EDUCATION

2016 Master in Fine Art, Academy of Art and Design, Basel, CH

1999 Master in Education, Antioch New England Graduate School, NH, USA.

1996 Bachelor of Social Work with distinction, University of Victoria, BC, Canada.