

# SKIP ZONE

TIRIL HASSELKNIPPE  
SANDRA MUJINGA  
KAH BEE CHOW

NOVEMBER 5 – DECEMBER 17, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 5, 6-8PM

Magenta Plains is thrilled to present *Skip Zone*, an exhibition with three international, emerging artists: Tiril Hasselknippe (b. 1984, Arendal, Norway), Sandra Mujinga (b.1989, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Kah Bee Chow (b. 1980, Penang, Malaysia). The artists, who met at the Malmö Art Academy, have developed a rich and enduring artistic dialogue that has expressed itself in their individual practices.

Upstairs in the main gallery, Tiril Hasselknippe presents a site-specific installation with a functional, short-wave radio tower and a radio program that is a collaborative work between all three artists in the exhibition. Previously employing architectural motifs such as balconies and buttresses, her sculpture is rooted in a material and textual world that balances deeply personal exploration with sociopolitical underpinnings—at times seeming to participate in parts of a post-apocalyptic storyline. A continuation of Hasselknippe's survival station at the Kunstverein Braunschweig in Germany, this presentation includes three works in the shape of a "divan" arranged in a protective horseshoe formation—traces of a communal settlement. The divan is a surrogate—a stand-in for existence, the joining of body and object, an archaeology of devotion—while the short-wave radio tower acts as a remnant from the trial and errors of a communication system. Throughout the exhibition, the sound program of music, readings, and interviews will be projected within the gallery as an invitation to anyone who has been "othered" as well as extending the invitation to alien species in the tradition of authors Octavia Butler, Ursula K. Le Guin and Liu Cixin. In Hasselknippe's attempt to challenge power structures she utilizes the tools of science/speculative fiction to propose solutions of coexistence.

Downstairs, Sandra Mujinga presents a new video installation, *Catching Up*. Working with three women who share both natural and scripted personal compliments with one another, Mujinga addresses how self-representation is performed in digital media. The subjects in her work are split, full of contradictions, and polymorphous—leaning towards becoming digital objects. Wearing sculptural garments which have been crafted by the artist, the women recline within a screensaver-like environment, creating a plane of constant movement amongst a technological landscape. Mujinga also presents two wearable sculptures, *Shawl (Elephant Ears) #5*, and *Octo Handbag* which continue her interest in the performative possibilities of fabrics and their in-between state. Her intimate, existential meditations in both her video and sculptural work focus on both digital and material processing, layering through the application of surfaces and skins, and the human element of online interaction.

Kah Bee Chow's work draws from etymologies relating to animals, bodies, and forms of protection and support. For her work in *Skip Zone* at 95 Orchard Street, Chow re-imagines the window space as an eatery with forms and elements of protective architecture: nail, shell, and armor relating to the Chinese character "甲"—or "jiǎ"—a pictograph of a single plate of armor. "甲" also refers to the turtle shells used in the ancient divination process which involved the earliest-known form of Chinese writing: the Oracle bone script. Downstairs, curved aluminum sheets have handles like riot shields. Wax domes glow pale shades of blue, vaguely shell or turtle-like. In this site-specific installation, Chow imagines a conduit through time between the terrestrial and beyond, everyday and the afterlife.

To access the radio program, visit <http://skipzone.net/>



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- ▶ **TIRIL HASSELKNIPPE** (b. 1984, Arendal, Norway) received her MFA from Malmö Art Academy in 2013, where she also participated in a foreign exchange program at The Cooper Union in New York. Hasselknippe's recent solo exhibitions have been held at institutions including Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany; Bianca D'Alessandro, Copenhagen, Denmark; and DREI, Cologne, Germany. Her work has recently been included in group exhibitions at A Palazzo Gallery, Brescia, Italy; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway; and the Stavanger Kunstmuseum, Stavanger, Norway. Hasselknippe lives and works in Norway and New York City.
  
- ▷ **SANDRA MUJINGA** (b.1989, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo) is a Norwegian video, sculpture, photography and performance artist currently based in Malmö, Sweden, and Berlin, Germany. Mujinga received her MFA from Malmö Art Academy in 2015; in 2016, she was awarded Sweden's prestigious Fredrik Roos Art Grant, which subsequently led to a three-person exhibition at Moderna Museet Malmö. Mujinga has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at Oslo Kunstforening, Oslo, Norway, and MAVRA in Berlin, and her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Julia Stoscheck Collection in Düsseldorf, the Norwegian Sculpture Biennale, and Kunsthall Oslo.
  
- ▶ **KAH BEE CHOW** (b. 1980, Penang, Malaysia) is originally from from Penang, Malaysia and Auckland, New Zealand, and she has lived and worked in Malmö, Sweden since 2010. Though she has previously exhibited widely in Europe and Oceania, *Skip Zone* at Magenta Plains is the artist's first exhibition in the United States. Chow received her MFA in 2012 from Malmö Art Academy in Sweden and her BFA in 2004 from Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. Her most recent solo exhibitions were held at Tranen Contemporary Art Center in Copenhagen, Denmark and Studio 17 in Stavanger, Norway. In 2018, Chow will attend the Triangle France Residency.