

# ART HANDLING

AN INSTALLATION PLAY BY LIZ MAGIC LASER



LUXEMBOURG + CO.

PRESS RELEASE

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May 11 - July 12, 2024  
Fuller Building  
595 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

On May 11, 2024, *Art Handling: An Installation Play* by Liz Magic Laser premieres at Luxembourg + Co., New York, transforming the gallery space into a stage, the artworks into props, and a group of art handlers into its cast and crew. In this new experimental play, visitors are invited to attend the live installation process of an art exhibition as it takes place in real time, following a group of technicians, artists and curators as they unpack, examine, and position a display of sculptures, paintings and videos. As the installation unfolds, unexpected interactions among the crew begin to take place as the art handlers share personal anecdotes and invite the audience to assist the installation, animating the artworks in the process. This day-long performance begins at 11 am with the arrival of the crew to the gallery. It concludes as celebratory drinks are served from 6 to 8pm. A live-feed from the gallery's eight surveillance cameras will be projected and remain installed following the event.



CLAES OLDENBURG (1929-2022)  
*Soft Light Switches 2/2*, 1963-69  
Vinyl filled with Dacron and canvas  
48 x 48 in. (121.9 x 121.9 cm)  
Private Collection

In the weeks after the live performance a display emerges in which both process and product coexist. *Art Handling: An Installation Play* presents works by Lygia Clark, Gino De Dominicis, Liz Magic Laser, David Levine, Esperanza Mayobre, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg.

In keeping with Laser's appropriation of reality television strategies, the play stars two artists who have often worked as art handlers: Sophie Becker, ventriloquist and Director of Jack Hanley gallery, and Esperanza Mayobre, Lead Preparator and Assistant Registrar at the Rauschenberg Foundation.

Liz Magic Laser is known for her original studies of the relationship between performative gestures and the social frameworks that condition them, from movie theatres to banks and therapy groups. In her new play, she lays bare the technical production phases of an art exhibition, a process typically concealed from public view and marginalized from critical discourse. In this artworld melodrama, conceptual decisions are put to the test as the art handlers challenge their skills and contractual boundaries.

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CAST AND CREW

Artist and Curator.....LIZ MAGIC LASER  
Artist and Lead Preparator (Robert Rauschenberg Foundation).....ESPERANZA MAYOBRE  
Art Handler.....SOPHIE BECKER  
Art Handler (Crozier Fine Arts).....ERIC MAGNUSON  
Art Handler (Crozier Fine Arts).....SHANE STICK  
Partner (Luxembourg + Co.).....ALMA LUXEMBOURG  
Gallery Associate (Luxembourg + Co.) .....COLETTE KIM  
Curator (Luxembourg + Co.).....YUVAL ETGAR  
Media Consultant.....MIMI CHIAHEMEN



Liz



Esperanza



Sophie



Eric



Shane



Alma



Colette



Yuval



Mimi

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 11

*THE PERFORMANCE WILL RUN THROUGHOUT THE DAY  
VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE GALLERY AT ANY GIVEN TIME*

ACT ONE

11-2PM

Intermission and refreshments

2-3PM

ACT TWO

3-7PM

Cocktail Reception

6-8PM

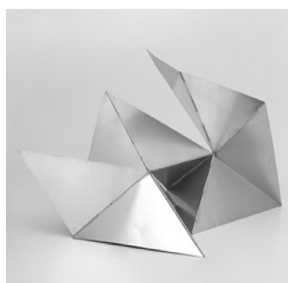
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ON VIEW

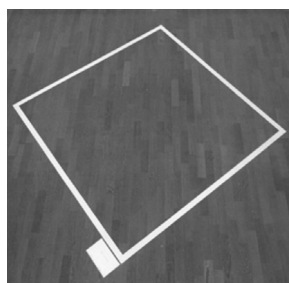
<i>Bicho Linear</i> , 1960.....	LYGIA CLARK
<i>Bicho Caraquejo</i> , 1960.....	LYGIA CLARK
<i>Cubo Invisibile</i> , 1967.....	GINO DE DOMINICIS
<i>Ubiquità</i> , 1969.....	GINO DE DOMINICIS
<i>D'IO</i> , 1970.....	GINO DE DOMINICIS
<i>Light Switch (soft version)</i> , 1969.....	CLAES OLDENBURG
<i>The Invisible Cube</i> , 2013.....	LIZ MAGIC LASER
<i>Stand Behind Me</i> , 2013.....	LIZ MAGIC LASER
<i>Art Handling Surveillance</i> , 2024.....	LIZ MAGIC LASER
<i>Actors at Work (Art Handlers at Work)</i> , 2024.....	DAVID LEVINE
<i>B.C.V. gold reserves drop 8 tons during the first half of 2023</i> .....	ESPERANZA MAYOBRE
<i>1 Gold Bar...</i> , 2023.....	ESPERANZA MAYOBRE
<i>Untitled (Venitian)</i> , 1973.....	ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG



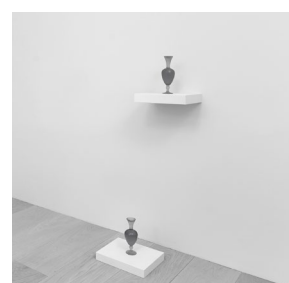
*Bicho Linear*



*Bicho Caraquejo*



*Cubo Invisibile*



*Ubiquità*



*D'IO*



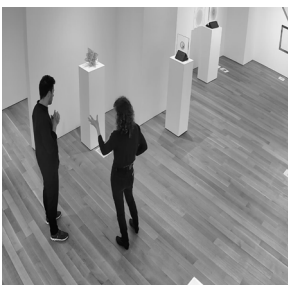
*Light Switch (soft version)*



*The Invisible Cube*



*Stand Behind Me*



*Art Handling Surveillance*



*B.C.V. gold reserves drop 8 tons during the first half of 2023*



*1 Gold Bar > 2.2 lbs or 1 kg > \$63,277 (worth approximately)  
13 gold bars = \$822,601*



*Untitled (Venitian)*

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### ABOUT LIZ MAGIC LASER



Photo: Lanna Apisukh.

Liz Magic Laser (b. 1981) is a Brooklyn-based, interdisciplinary artist who was born and raised in New York City. Laser primarily works in multimedia video and performance. Her practice extends to sculpture and installation, intervening in public spaces such as movie theaters, banks, and newsrooms, often involving collaborations with her audience, actors, political strategists, and surgeons.

Influenced by Bertolt Brecht's concept of epic theatre and Augusto Boal's theatre of the oppressed, Laser casts the camera as an active participant guiding human behavior. Laser's work explores the growing impact of reality television on interpersonal communication, reflecting on the use of new age techniques and psychological methods in both corporate culture and political movements.

Solo presentations and screenings of her work include: STUK, Leuven (2024); Tate Modern, London, Terra Foundation Digital Residency(2023); Pioneer Works, New York (2023); CAC Brétigny, (2017); Jupiter Artland Foundation, Edinburgh (2017); Kunstverein, Göttingen, (2016); Mercer Union, Toronto (2015); Wilfred Lentz, Rotterdam, (2015); Various Small Fires, Los Angeles (2015); Paula Cooper Gallery, New York (2013); the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, (2013); and Mälmo Konsthall, Mälmo (2012). Her work was also included in exhibition at Image & Sound the Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (2019); Metro Pictures, New York (2018); Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (2017); the Swiss Institute (2016); the Whitney Museum of American Art (2015); Lisson Gallery, London (2013); and the Performa II Biennial, New York (2011).

### ABOUT LUXEMBOURG + CO.

Luxembourg + Co. presents curated, museum-quality exhibitions of works by modern masters and contemporary artists in its spaces in New York and London. Since its opening, the gallery has presented a number of critically acclaimed exhibitions, ranging from individual presentations of artists such as Paul Cezanne, René Magritte, Alberto Burri, Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miró, Richard Prince and Derrick Adams to thematic survey exhibitions such as *Grisaille*, *Unpainted Paintings*, *The Shaped Canvas*, *Revisited* and *The Ends of Collage*.

#### CONTACTS

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Luxembourg + Co.'s opening times are Monday to Friday, 10am–5pm and by appointment