

## Visitor information

# Space Travel VII

**Natacha Donzé, Laila Kaletta,**

**Vicente Lesser**

4. June to 24. September 2023

For the seventh time, the exhibition series *Space Travel* shows young Swiss art in the basement of the museum. We have invited **Natacha Donzé (\*1991)**, **Laila Kaletta (\*1995)** and **Vicente Lesser (\*1992)** – three artists whose artworks connect with fantastic visual worlds inspired by **science fiction**, engage with **scientific and technological progress** and its effects on people and human civilisation and look back at **earlier utopian models of society**.

Given the impending **overall renovation 2024-2025**, the **seventh edition** of the exhibition series *Space Travel* will be the last for the time being. So 2023 is a wonderful time for Langmatt to deal **with journeys into space and into the future**, but also with **mysterious inner worlds** and **unimagined possibilities**.

In the large cellar we dive into the pictorial worlds of **Natacha Donzé**. Her paintings are enveloped by a quality of the unfathomable, in the truest sense of the word. As we gaze into these scenes, they take us into the **depths of space**, or evoke associations with **dreamy landscapes** or the **depths of the sea**. The almost floor-to-ceiling painting *Feeding on Mud* shows a reddish-brown surface with a cloudy pattern over which a fine, red grid has been laid. Only at second glance do we realize that it is a **solar panel** in which the company's image is reflected. As we approach, we also notice the small flies that have settled on the fine interstices of the panel and are perhaps eating the mud that has collected there, which gives it its title. *The meadow, sensor* und *The meadow, pressure points* are two long paintings in **bright yellow tones** that seem to glow from within. Here, too, the mood changes and we are suddenly unsure whether the yellow is not toxic after all and whether we have lost our way in a cloud of sulfur.

In the washroom, **Vicente Lesser** has built a gateway to the titular city of **Llano del Rio**. Llano de Rio was a **socialist commune** that existed near Los Angeles during the First World War. The installation consists of wallpaper (Design: Retinaa) and an encircling wall relief made of concrete with a fluted surface, small-

format video animations and a pyramid-sculpture, which respectively refer to **social-historical and architectural-historical topics**. In his artistic work Vicente Lesser regularly deals with architecture, the built environment and the social structures behind it. *Another Gate to Llano del Rio* opens up various windows on **utopian housing projects** of the last century and on architectural manifestations of power and the decline of power.

In the tank room, we immerse ourselves in a **fictitious underwater world**, courtesy of **Laila Kaletta's** two-channel video installation *Cilia in the Net of Analogies* and accompany the protagonist Zille in a wondrous exploration of single-celled creatures – more specifically, **ciliates**. The two videos are projected within two round arches in the tank room, and the audience is invited to sit on **folding stools** scattered throughout the room. The artist selected the mobile seating from the Langmatt's own stock and covered her seating areas with **green artificial turf** for the exhibition. In terms of content, it is related to the artificial turf from the video, which is the **habitat** of the ciliates. The fact that the audience can decide where to sit also fits in with the **change of perspective** that is inherent in the artwork, as it explores the relationship between the individual living beings in a new way.

*Daniela Minneboo*

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication with a text by Daniela Minneboo and exhibition views. *Raumfahrt VII - Natacha Donzé, Laila Kaletta, Vicente Lesser*, Museum Langmatt, Baden, 2023, 32 pages, 14 illustrations, CHF 14.90 (available at the museum kassa).

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