

Vanessa Safavi

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, 1980. Lives and works between Berlin, Germany and Fribourg, Switzerland

Education

- 2019-2020 Work.Master, HEAD, Geneva, CH
Professors : Anselm Franke, Fulvia Carnivale, Jon Rafman, Yann Chateigné, Micheal Stevenson
- 2003-2007 HEA Diplôme d'arts visuels, ECAL – école cantonale d'art de Lausanne, Lausanne, CH
Professors : John Armleder, Julien Fronsacq, Francis Baudevin, Philippe Decrauzat, Stéphanie Moisdon and Stéphane Dafflon

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 (upcoming) *Solo Show*, Fabienne Levy, Zürich, CH
Waves in the closet, Tunnel Tunnel, Lausanne, CH
- 2023 *I feed my dreams slime at night*, Fabienne Levy, Geneva, Lausanne, CH
- 2021 *Dolls and Goddesses*, Cascina I.D.E.A., Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects, Agrate Conturbi, IT
- 2019 *Milch*, curated by Windhager von Kaenel, Staletta, Madulain, CH
Velvet, ACUD, Berlin, DE
The Approach, London (CONDO with The Breeder), UK
FRI-ART Centre d'Art, (film premiere), Fribourg, CH
Fürstbergischen Sammlungen Donaueschingen, Donaueschingen, DE
- 2018 *Turns and Returned*, The Breeder, Athens, GR
- 2017 *The Cook and the Smoke Detector*, ChertLüdde, Berlin, DE
- 2016 *Medulla Plaza*, Kunstverein Grafschaft, Bentheim, DE
Fair Play, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Zürich, CH
Stick to Me Fantasy (with Pauline Beaudemont), SOLO SHOWS, curated by Tobi Maier, Sao Paulo, BR
- 2015 *Amygdala*, The Breeder Playroom, Athens, GR
Airbags, MOTINTERNATIONAL, Brussels, BE
- 2014 *FIAC! Lafayette section*, Grand Palais, Paris, FR
Cloud Metal Cities, Kunsthalle São Paulo, São Paulo, BR
La Nuit Liquide, The Breeder, Athens, GR
- 2013 *One Torino with Santo Tolone and Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa Castello di Rivoli*, curated by Beatrix Ruff, Gegor Muir and Andrew Berardini, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Turin, IT
3 Pounds of Jelly, Chert, Berlin, DE
Der Tanz, curated by Roman Kurzmeyer, Atelier Amden, Amden, CH
- 2012 *Present Future*, Artissima, Turin, with Chert, Berlin, DE
After the Monument Comes the People, Back wall installation, Kunsthalle Basel, CH
I Wish Blue could be Water, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, FR
Les Figures Autonomes, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, FR
- 2011 *Resort*, Kunsthauus Glarus, Glarus, CG
No More Ice Cream, Pro Helvetia, Cape Town, ZA
- 2010 *Between a Tree and a Plastic Chair*, Chert, Berlin, DE
Wandering Works, Claudia Groeflin Galerie, Zürich, CH
Successes and Traumas, Le Palais Bleu, Trogen, CH
- 2009 *NEO*, Naphtaline, Lausanne, CH
- 2008 *DOM-TOM*, zwanzigquadrametmer, Berlin, DE

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Swiss Art Awards, Basel, CH
Art Genève, with Fabienne Levy, Geneva, CH
- 2024 *Secret Language*, Gunia Nowik Gallery, Warsaw, PL
- 2022 *Ties and Knots and Bandages*, Krone Couronne, Biel, CH
Claustrophobia Alpina, Forde, Geneva, CH
- 2021 *So close I can see inside of you*, Chertluedde, Berlin, DE
Rupture, Musée d'art et d'histoire de Fribourg, Fribourg, CH
- 2020 *Notes sur l'empathie*, group show curated by Charlotte Laubard, Fondation Entreprise Ricard, Paris, FR
Des Seins à Dessein, Espace Arlaud, Lausanne, CH
- 2019 *The House Where You Live Forever*, Curated by Marina Coelho, Garage Rotterdam, NL
- 2018 *And as things fell apart, nobody paid much attention*, Monitor, Lisbon, PT
Objects like us, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT, USA
- 2017 *An ear, severed, listens*, ChertLüdde, Berlin, DE
How much is too much ?, School for Curatorial Studies, Venice, IT
Sammlung, ALMA, Kunsthaus Glarus, CH
- 2016 *Meaning can only grow out of intimacy (Limbs, Water, Nostalgia)*, curated by Elise Lammer, Les Urbaines – 20th edition, Lausanne, CH
A Month of Sundays, Taylor Macklin, Zurich, CH
Lonesome Wife, Seventeen, London, UK
The world no longer exists, Kurator, Rapperswil, CH
Group presentation at Artissima, Turin, IT
Group presentation at ART-O-RAMA, Marseille, FR
Cycle music and art festival, Kópavogur, Iceland, IC
Che il vero possa confutare il falso, AgiVerona Collection, Palazzo Pubblico/Santa Maria della Scala/Accademia dei Fisiocritici, Siena, curated by Luigi Fassi and Alberto Salvadori, IT
Macaroni, WallRiss, Fribourg, CH
unexpected others, L'Atelier ksr, Berlin, DE
Stick To Me Fantasy: Vanessa Safavi & Pauline Beaudemont, SOLO SHOWS, São Paulo, BR
Leaping over a bush to surprise a quail, Chert, Berlin, DE
Inflected Objects # 2 Circulation – Mise en Séance, Frans Hals Museum | De Hallen Haarlem, Netherlands, NL
The transparent tortoiseshell and the un-ripe umbrella, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow, UK
- 2015 *Intro*, Giorgio Galotti Gallery, Turin, IT
A Space is a Space is a Space, Deutsche Arkitektur Zentrum DAZ, Berlin, DE
Ceramics and Graphite, Chert, Berlin, DE
auto objects, curated by Imke Kannegiesser, at NOTE ON, Berlin, DE
Swiss Art Awards, Base, CH
Interior/Exterior/Sculpture, Curated by Saskia Neuman, Belenius/Nordenhake, Stockholm, SE
milk revolution, curated by Ilaria Marotta and Andrea Baccin at the American Academy, Rome, IT
- 2014 *What do you write when men are puking into plastic bags*, Chert, Berlin, DE
Fieldworks: Animal Habitats in Contemporary Art, curated by Chris Clarke, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, IE
Blackboard – White Page, Kantonsschule Zürich Nord, Zurich, CH
Tell Me What I See, When I Look Into Your Eyes, BolteLang, Zürich, CH
- 2013 *Editionshow*, Chert, Berlin, DE
I'll be your Mirror, Herald St, London, UK
Focus, Frieze Art Fair, London, UK
AB, Nomas Foundation, Rome, IT

- The Droste Affect*, Scaramouche Gallery, New York, US
Emmy Moore's Journal, curated by Quinn Latimer, SALTS, Basel, CH
If I was John Armleder, a project by Luca Cerizza for Art Genève, Geneva, CH
Harum-Scarum, Blancpain Art Contemporain, Geneva, CH
- 2012 *Partoftheprocess 5*, Zero gallery, Milan, IT
Gong Places, IAAB-Projektraum, Münchenstien, DE
The Thing Itself, Abbt Projects, Zürich, CH
- 2011 *Junge Kunst in der Schweiz – 30 Jahre Manor Kunstpreis*, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, CH
Le Choix de Paris, curated by Elsy Lahner, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, FR
Be nice to me, curated by Niels Trannois and Gyonata Bonvicini at Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin, CH
A Skeleton in the Closet, curated by Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel, Heidelberger Kunstverein-Ausser Haus project, Heidelberg, CH
Livingroom Exotica, Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus, CH
- 2010 *the forever ending story #012*, Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Basel, CH
That's all Folklore, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, FR
Wood you rather..., K3 – Project Space, Zürich, CH
Drinnen & Draussen, Chert, Berlin, DE
En Miroir, projections sur le Folklore, Centre d'art de Fribourg, Fribourg, CH
Strange Comfort (Afforded by the Profession), curated by Adam Szymczyk and Salvatore Lacagnina in collaboration with Annette Amberg and Roos Gortzak, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel
Luck Draw, Sculpture Center, Long Island City, New York, US
The Amazone Conversation, Raum Zur Kunst, Basel, CH
- 2009 *All The Girls Standing In The Line For The Bathroom*, curated by Christiane Rekade, Artnews Project Space, Berlin, DE
Kiefer Hablitzel, Swiss Art Awards, Basel, CH
- 2008 *If it's a bird, shoot it!*, In Practice project curated by Sarina Basta, Sculpture Center, Long Island, New York, USA
Un Art du Feu, curated by Guillaume Pilet, Espace Bellevaux, Lausanne, CH
Folklore?, Centre culturel suisse de Paris, curated by Léa Fluck, Paris, FR
X, 1M3, Lausanne, CH
Black Diaspora, curated by Nathalie Rehbolz, Espace Out Of This Word, Territet, CH
Joseph Hannibal Now!, curated by Joseph Hannibal, Galerie Blancpain, Geneva, CH
Zoo Art Fair, with 1M3, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2007 *Sijang Jeon Eun Neomu Ileo*, curated by Aurélien Gamboni, Espace Forde, Geneva, CH
Even anti-heroes need their Mum, with Kim Boninsegni, K. Sgouridis, curated by Samuel Gross, Galerie Guy Bärtschi, Geneva, CH
Ecal graduate exhibition, curated by Gloria Friedmann, Ecal, Lausanne, CH
Anathema, with Lauris Paulus and Fabian Marti, curated by Boris Magrini, Fri- Art, Fribourg, CH
Der Tanz der Doppelgänger, curated by Klat, Shark, Geneva, CH

Projects and Publications:

- 2023 *Alien Armpit*, artist book, MOUSSE Publishing, supported by Istituto Svizzero Rome
- 2016 *Medulla Plaza*, exhibition catalogue at Kunstverein Grafschaft Bentheim, published by Kunstverein Grafschaft Bentheim, ISBN 9783943240160
- 2014 De Generation of Painting, Vanessa safavi, foundation 107
- 2013 Eat the blue, Le 116 center for contemporary arts, Montreuil, invitation by Jagna Ciuchta
- 2011 *Blind Traveller*, monographic catalogue, Kunsthaus Glarus and Chert, Berlin
- 2010 *Drinnen & Draussen*, exhibition catalogue, published by Chert & Motto, Berlin
Vanessa Safavi – Collection Cahiers d'Artistes 2010, published by Pro Helvetia, Fondation suisse pour la culture/Swiss Arts Council
- 2009 *ahahah*, OBzine, Fanzine of contemporary art, limited edition, direction du fanzine OB#1
DK, self-published fanzine
- 2008 Lauris Paulus pour Naphtaline, Lausanne
- 2007 *This Year I'm 27*, self-published fanzine
Stay Home it's Better, self-published fanzine

Residencies

- 2022 Istituto Svizzero, Rome, Italy
- 2018 Fürstenberg, Donaueschingen
- 2015 Residency 92Capital, Lima and Calca, Perú
- 2013 Residency Unlimited (RU) in collaboration with Galapagos Art space, New York
- 2011 Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Cape Town
Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris, Paris

Public Commissions / Prizes

- 2024 Visual Arts Prize, Landis & Gyr Foundation
- 2020 Irène Raymond Prize
- 2013 Luci d'Artista, Turin
- 2012 Illy Prize, Artissima Art Fair, Turin
- 2011 Nominated for GASAG ART PRIZE 2011

Collections

- Nomas Foundation, Rome, Italy
- Kunsthaus Glarus, Switzerland
- Ricola Collection, Switzerland
- Fiorucci Art Trust, London, United Kingdom

Bibliography & Publications

- 2017 Formas Fragiles, Neo Magazine
- 2016 *Medulla Piazza*, publication and catalogue for the exhibition "Medulla Piazza", Kunstverein Grafschaft
- 2015 The Amden Atelier, 1999-2015, by Roman Kurzmeyer, Editions Voldemeer Zürich
- 2014 SOUTH MAGAZINE, Cloud Metal Cities, Interview with Estelle Nayberat
Record edition My Head is a Box by Kunsthalle Basel/Waterfall Magazine : Artist's playlist
- 2013 A Letter to Berlin, Andrew Berardini, One Torino Catalogue, Autumn 2013
From Pole to Pole on A Rollercoaster, poem for Adrien Missika Catalogue Botanica 2013
Des métaphores à la logique suspendue Vanessa Safavi, Estelle Nabeyat, Code 2.0, Issue 6, Montreuil-sous-bois, Spring 2013

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- 2012 Brand New, Andreas Schlaegel, Flash Art, March - April, 2013
Deserts, ideologies and relics, Quinn Latimer, Fokus: Frieze d/e, No. 7, Berlin
A conversation between Vanessa Safavi and Silvio do Nascimento, published in Wandering Magazine #1, Berlin, Feb 13th, 2012
- 2011 Kunstbulletin, Fokus - Vanessa Safavi, Christiane Rekade
Vanessa Safavi, Art in America, review by Aoife Rosenmeyer
Don't you have anything else to talk about than the color of your car?", Vanessa Safavi in discussion with Pauline Beaudemont, Capetown - New York, April 12 - November 3, 2011
Vanessa Safavi - Blind Traveller, published by Kunsthhaus Glarus and Chert on the occasion of the exhibitions: "Resorts", Kunsthhaus Glarus, August-October 2011 and "Between the Tree and a Plastic Chair", Chert, Berlin, September-October 2010
- 2010 "Between the Tree and a Plastic Chair", Vanessa Safavi solo exhibition, Chert, Berlin, Novembre magazine, Issue no. 2, November 2010
"Between the Tree and a Plastic Chair", Vanessa Safavi solo exhibition, Chert, Berlin, review in Spike magazine by Andreas Schlaegel, October 2010
Drinnen & Draussen, exhibition catalogue, published by Chert & Motto, Berlin
Collection Cahiers d'Artistes 2010, published by Pro Helvetia, Fondation suisse pour la culture/Swiss Arts Council
- 2007 Kunstbulletin – The West-Coast of the Lake, by Kim Seob Bongnisegni
Kunstbulletin – DECORUM, invitation de Zorro & Bernardo
- 2006 Kunstbulletin – L'Atelier du coq a l'âne, by Kim Seob Bongnisegni and Aurélien Gamboni