

Text by Carine Dolek, Marseille, mowwgli, 2017

Nothing is more flexible and weaker than water, but to remove the hard and the strong, nothing surpasses it. Weakness is the reason for strength; flexibility is the reason for hardness. Everyone knows it, but no one can put it into practice.

Lao Tzu

Patricia Reinhart encompasses painting, photography and video installations projected in public spaces. Creating a synergetic yet subtle dialogue between these distinct artworks, her art merges these three mediums in her own original manner. The Austrian visual artist offers sensuality as a red thread of identity.

As a woman, after the storm, I lay down my arms. I don't want to fight anymore or to act like a man. I would love to go to the garden, as a woman.

Patricia Reinhart

The imagery of water is present in all of Patricia Reinhart's video pieces. The sea surrounding the island, the waves stirring the beach where the nuns walk, the flat pool surfaces, the rivers where Ophelias and waterlilies float, the exploding waves, the water nourishing the lush gardens. A Jungian symbol of unconsciousness, water inviting us to consider the hidden yet limpid, powerful yet submerged. It is enough for very little, he wrote, „to shatter the semblance of unity of consciousness, to disintegrate it into its first elements.“ A plurality of selves, emerging from awareness. Beneath the surface of every lake, exists a parallel universe on the other side, we become aware of the back of the mirror, the surf and the tide. Simultaneous and vertiginous possibilities, carried by the current of water, waves, tides, repetitions of filmic images. In this game of reflections, an abyss of cyclical life and death in the rhythm of waves, sunrises and sunsets and the phases of the moon. Staged self-portraits are the center of her work - installations, films and photographs. These female figures, like the Platonic sirens, singing the music of spheres that produce harmony of the universe, embodying the energy that surrounds them and from which they are the emanation. An energy of strength and power, intractable to be conquered or tamed, but awaiting self-awareness. An island sea that is an integral part of the woman element, which can be inhabited with serenity or savagery, in the dark abyss or transparent surface, and which can give life or destroy it. By abolishing its surface, passing on the other side, dissolving matter in water and water in matter, dissolving itself in time, repetitions, reflections, blooms. I am the lady of the garden, says Patricia Reinhart. I am the lady of the garden, says the garden. // * La dissociabilité de la psyché - C.G. Jung.