

PRESS RELEASE

ceaac

You'll always be taller than a newspaper

Charlotte Khouri

02.04.2022–04.09.2022

Charlotte Khouri, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper*
2022, video still. Courtesy of the artist.

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Opening : 01.04.2022 > 18:30

Solo exhibition

Curator : Alice Motard

Charlotte Khouri, whose work spans performance, video and sculpture, pointedly questions our relationship to history and to the power of information. Since her childhood, the artist has been fascinated with mass media (press, television, radio) and the way in which they assert power, format minds and manipulate attention. Produced by the CEAAC, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper* revolves around the material realisation of a giant newspaper and a series of small-scale objectified versions of 'architectures of power' (headquarters of TV channels, European institutions, etc.), which will be used for performances in which the artists appropriate the codes and imagery of television.

The film resulting from these performances is at the heart of the exhibition, which furthermore includes the sets and props created for the occasion, here repurposed into pieces of furniture (seats, pedestal and coffee tables). Investigating the concept of mind control, the film consists of a 'day' and a 'night' part, in which two protagonists in rally driver outfits

are seen performing in front of a camera. According to the artist, they represent modern knights, conjuring the idea of a race or quest to gather information. The daytime part of the video shows the artist grappling with a giant newspaper, trying to decipher its content by interpreting the graphic signs and images, while physically measuring herself up to the outsized implement. The second part features the actress Marie Baxerres in a nocturnal atmosphere performing a startling tap-dance number on a podium that replicates the architectural characteristics of the rotunda of the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, the headquarters of the Council of Europe. For a return to reality, just click your heels together three times like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*...

The production of Charlotte Khouri's project was generously supported by the Fondation des Artistes and 'Mondes nouveaux', a funding scheme set up by the Ministry of Culture as part of the French government's recovery plan.



Charlotte Khouri, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper* 2022, video still. Courtesy of the artist.

Texts and enactment: Charlotte Khouri; deviation, extension, imagination and cut-up of interviews with Dalida, Michèle Mouton, Delphine Seyrig, Britney Spears and anonymous mind control victims. Reinterpretations of the dance piece *Accumulation* (1971) by Trisha Brown and of an excerpt from the film *Network* (1976) by Sidney Lumet.

Actress and tap dancer: Marie Baxerres

Giant newspaper: Charlotte Khouri

Costumes: Charlotte Khouri in collaboration with Fanny Devaux

Make-up: Garush Melkonyan

DOP: Victor Zebo

Image editing: Charlotte Khouri and Garush Melkonyan

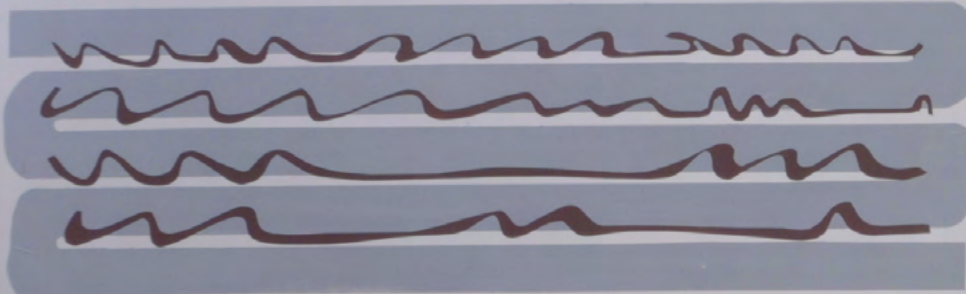
Sound engineer: Valentine Gelin

Sound editing: Terence Meunier

Sound design: DVMA

Assistant: Xavier Michel

Catering: Elise Carron



Charlotte Khouri

(b. 1985 in L'Union, Haute-Garonne), graduated from the École supérieure des beaux-arts de Marseille (2009) and the Haute école d'art et de design (HEAD) in Geneva (2012). In 2018, with Anne Le Troter, she wrote and directed a series of plays in domestic environments produced and promoted by Le Grand Café, centre d'art contemporain de Saint-Nazaire, Frac Champagne-Ardenne in Reims, and Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers in 2019. That same year, she participated in the Salon de Montrouge with the video installation *Investiture cœur d'argent*, which was recently acquired by the Fonds d'art contemporain – Paris Collections (formerly FMAC). In 2019–20, she was a resident at La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec, where she presented her first personal exhibition *Dauphins, Dauphines*. In parallel, she held a series of workshops on popular culture and TV at Fondation Lafayette Anticipations in Paris, which resulted in the video *Culture Générale Générale* (2021) that she co-directed with the workshop participants. More recently she has collaborated with the author and director Pierre-Vincent Chapus on the scenographic creation of *NOVELTY*, a play produced with members of the Emmaüs community and the Fondation Abbé Pierre.



Previous page : Charlotte Khouri, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper* 2022, video still. Courtesy of the artist.

Right : Charlotte Khouri, *Culture Générale Générale*, 2021, video stills, co-directed with the workshop participants of her workshop, during her residency at Fondation Lafayette Anticipations. Courtesy of the artist.





Left and below : Charlotte Khouri, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper*, 2022, video still, with the participation of the actress and tap dancer Marie Baxerres. Courtesy of the artist.

Next page : Charlotte Khouri, *You'll always be taller than a newspaper* 2022, video still. Courtesy of the artist.





Informations & contacts



CEAAC
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d'Actions Artistiques
Contemporaines

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Wed-Sun: 2pm > 6pm
(except on public holidays)
Free entrance

- Guided tours and school
groups welcome
by appointment:
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The CEAAC

Founded in 1987, the Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines (CEAAC) aims to support, produce and promote contemporary creation for all audiences. Since 1994, it has been housed in the former Neunreiter glassware and porcelain store, an Art Nouveau building in the heart of the historic Krutenau district in Strasbourg. The CEAAC is a unique place for exhibitions and experimental practices, whose artistic and cultural events testify to the wealth and diversity of the regional, national and international contemporary art scene. Since 2001, it has also been running a far-reaching international exchange and residency programme with German, Hungarian, Czech, Canadian and Korean institutions.

After more than 30 years of activity, the CEAAC has arrived at a turning point in its history. Building on its vast experience and its privileged location within the university district of a city that is both one of the four official European capitals and the capital of the Grand Est Region (5.5 million inhabitants), the CEAAC has renewed its Board of Directors in November 2020 to benefit from the expertise of accomplished professionals such as Marie-Cécile Burnichon, Assistant Director of the Artistic Exchange and Cooperation Department at the Institut Français; David Cascaro, Director of the Haute école des arts du Rhin; Julien Fronsacq, Chief Curator and Assistant Director of MAMCO Geneva; and Pascal Yonet, Director of Vent des Forêts (Meuse). The Board is co-chaired by Martin Meyer, honorary lawyer and Honorary President of the Friends of the Strasbourg Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, and chaired by Anne Wachsmann Guigon, barrister and President of the Linklaters Foundation. In September 2021, Alice Motard was named the new Director of the CEAAC. Her artistic and cultural vision aims to strengthen the European character of the CEAAC while working towards meeting the requirements to obtain

certification as a Contemporary Art Centre of National Interest (C.A.C.I.N.). Her project for the future art centre pursues two lines of artistic research: on the one hand, a reflection on the modes of production, reproduction and circulation of images with regard to the history of Alsace as one of the birthplaces of the printing industry; on the other hand, an exploration of vernacular, local and popular knowledge and know-how.

The team of the CEAAC comprises ten permanent employees (7 full-time equivalents) and one civic service volunteer.

The CEAAC is an association under the local law of 1908 and benefits from the support of the Grand Est Region, the City of Strasbourg, the DRAC Grand Est and the European Collectivity of Alsace. The CEAAC is also part of the Plan d'Est and Arts en résidence networks.

