

Artist Statement

Geminis don't die, they fly and multiply. I am a Gemini, extrovert and introvert at the same time. My work, as well, is full of paradoxical layering. It is at once confusing and revealing, personal and universal, liberating and oppressive. Light-hearted and dystopian. Colorful and black&white. Social and isolated.

I have no children; I raise my art. I am queer and my practice is fluid. My work is forever shapeshifting, from a color-changing chameleon into all the different tentacles of an octopus.

I am open and limitless. I have a transformative approach to everything. Be like water is my formula and an accurate metaphor for both life and work. Water, being fluid, bold and flexible always finds its way and is capable of coping with change. And change, to me, is the only constant in life. Change can bring forth fear as well. The world around me is full of questionable contradictions, therefore paradoxicality became a common thread in my practice. I perceive transformation and creativity to be essential for change and utterly important for the future of planet Earth and humanity.

I am curious. The stamina of my curiosity drags me all around the world and my antennas are permanently set to receive in order to see, learn and feel. I change my base often and as the context of my life changes, so do my lovers, friends, collaborators and colleagues. Just like light and time do, too. While living and working in the Netherlands periodically, there were longer intervals when I was settled in Berlin, New York, Mexico City and Suriname. Currently I am spending a lot of time in my lockdown studio in Brussels.

My interdisciplinary practice, simultaneously spatial, social and research based, allows me to work across various media and leads me to question the world in all its hardness, beauty and mysteriousness. My versatile practice is my signature statement. It reflects on the difficulties in understanding this diverse, multilayered and complex world. I am optimistic without being naive and I believe in a more inclusive world with limitless exchange and understanding for each other and the constantly changing environment and identities. I love that art can be a moment of alienation for the maker and a challenging space of otherness for the viewer.

I am turned on by anything unfathomable. My inner engine starts with things that I can not fully comprehend and I am challenged by ambiguity that reveals the cracks in the mirror of the world.

I am a sponge. In my working process I absorb a huge amount of information & knowledge about the topic of my research. First, I manically collect working material, which can vary from thoughts and dreams to objects, photographs and videos to raw or recycled physical materials. Then I examine this heterogeneous group of ingredients and process it in my inner emotional laboratory, as well as through experiments in my physical studio. In this two-step process, I develop and finalize my works, which can take on a form of a photograph, sculpture, (site specific) installation, collage, artist-book, video, text, performance, and (social) intervention. While the start of my work is always concept and research based, in the process of working I compose new narratives and belief-systems that are open for interpretation.

I am serious, but I love to play. A playful component in the working process is a necessity to me. Playfulness shines through art and no matter how serious or heavy the subject matter is, play can make anyone relate to it. Play allows art to breathe. I want my art to keep breathing while exposing the nerves of the world around me.