

*What Flows  
Through and  
Across*

**Paul Maheke**

18 January — 25 February 2017

Assembly Point

Assembly Point is delighted to present a solo project by French artist Paul Maheke, titled 'What Flows Through and Across', the second of three exhibitions that form Maheke's ongoing international project: 'Becoming a Body of Water or How to Unlearn Resistance as Opposition'.

Feeding off of one another, each iteration of 'Becoming a Body of Water...' will feature choreographed dance pieces alongside the presentation of film-based and sculptural works. By looking at the exhibition space as a multimodal situation to experiment with new interactions between dance and moving images, it aims to challenge presentation formats while reconsidering the role a show holds in the rendition of an artwork.

Open rehearsals and choreographed performances will be staged at several points during the exhibition, occupying the central part of the gallery floor. These performances will be conceived by Maheke during the exhibition in response to the soundtrack produced by artist Sophie Mallett.

Maheke's ongoing project takes its roots in Hydrofeminism<sup>1</sup>, considering water as a subjective/affective matter. Choreographing our relations to each other, the shows will explore notions such as fluidity and formlessness through the use of dance as a thinking process that is in flux and allows indetermination.

Also drawing on research into the memory of water and its molecular responsiveness to emotions<sup>2</sup> as well as how trauma is passed on from one generation to another through DNA<sup>3</sup>, the show speculates about embodied histories by researching physical memory through movement. It grounds itself in an artistic exploration of queer blackness within which dance and music-making have become coping mechanisms and the queer black body operates —similarly to its main constituent: water — as an archive using its fluids as pathways to knowledge and information.

'Becoming a Body of Water or How to Unlearn Resistance as Opposition' commenced in Berlin ('In Me Everything is Already Flowing' at Center, 15 Dec 2016 — 12 Feb 2017) before progressing to London ('What Flows Through and Across' at Assembly Point, 18 Jan — 25 Feb 2017) and Paris ('Acqua Alta', Sultana Gallery, April — May 2017). A series of related performance works will continue to proceed alongside the shows, staged at Union Pacific (Aug 2016), The Showroom (Nov 2016) and Tate Modern (Mar 2017).

<sup>1</sup> See Astrida Neimanis: 'Hydrofeminism: Or, On Becoming a Body of Water.'

<sup>2</sup> See Masaru Emoto and Professor Luc Montagnier- also winner of the Nobel Prize for his discovery of HIV

<sup>3</sup> See Dr. Rachel Yehuda: 'How Trauma and Resilience Cross Generations'

#### List of Works:

About The Seas that Have Gestated Us, 2017

Aluminium fish tank, water, crystal candle wax, print on paper, hair, dried plant buds.

87 × 32 cm

We the Marshes, 2017

Digital print on fabric, stretcher bars, iron, dried water plants.

155 × 90 cm

As The Waters Recall, 2017

HD video installation 13:56 min, net curtains, vinyl dance mat.

Dimensions variable

Leakage, 2017

Digital prints on fabrics, glass shelves, resin drops, push lights, light fittings in glass.

210 × 120 cm

## Assembly Point

Paul Maheke is a French artist (b.1985, Brive-la-Gaillarde) who has lived in London since 2015 after completing his MA in Art Practice at l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy in 2011 and subsequently living in Montreal, Canada, for two years.

Maheke was awarded the South London Gallery Graduate Residency 2015-16 and his exhibition 'I Lost Track of the Swarm' was exhibited in the first floor galleries in late spring 2016. Prior to this, Maheke completed a programme of study at Open School East, London, where he pursued a period of research and a series of public conversations entitled 'Beyond Beyoncé: Use It Like a Bumper!'.

Upcoming projects include: 'Ten Days Six Nights', Tate Modern; 'Performances/Partitions', Fondation Ricard; 'Diaspora Platform', Venice, Italy; 'Take the Weight', SixtyEight Art Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark.

With thanks to South London Gallery

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