



Isabel Lewis, *Urban Flourishing*,
Salon Suisse 2019 s l o w . Opening 11th May at Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia
Photo: Magali Le Mens

Vienna, 13 October 2021

Belvedere 21
Arsenalstraße 1
1030 Vienna

Performance times:
30/10/2021 | 3pm–6pm
31/10/2021 | 2pm–5pm
1/11/2021 | 12pm–3pm

Press downloads:
belvedere.at/en/press

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ISABEL LEWIS

URBAN FLOURISHING

30 October to 1 November 2021

How do we perceive our environment? And to what extent are we shaped by norms and standards? In *Urban Flourishing*, performance artist Isabel Lewis reacts to the prescribed and regulated forms of urban existence. The result of this performative examination of the "queerness of time" (Carolyn Dinshaw) can be seen in a collaboration between the Tanzquartier Wien and the Belvedere on the first floor of the Belvedere 21.

Curated by Bettina Kogler and Christa Spatt (TQW).

Urban Flourishing by Isabel Lewis is a guide for collective "listening" using all the senses. This guided experience encourages listeners to connect with their inner world and thus become receptive to the outer world in an even more radical way: to sounds, voices, music, and the vibrations of urban material – in other words, to urban life and non-life.

Choreographer Isabel Lewis creates a hybrid practice of attunement to the body from various influences of dance, performance, and active listening. From this emerges an alternative form of engagement with our environment – a proposal to respond to regulated and standardized forms of urban existence.

She draws on concepts of "erotic sociability" and "queerness of time" – the latter coined by historian Carolyn Dinshaw in her book *Medieval Texts, Amateur Readers, and the Queerness of Time*. Dinshaw, a specialist in medieval studies, developed a powerful critique of modernist temporal regimes that is seminal within queer theory.

Lewis, like Dinshaw, is interested in "forms of desirous, embodied being that are out of sync with the ordinarily linear measurements of everyday life, that engage heterogeneous temporalities or that precipitate out of time altogether."

"Erotic sociability" is a term coined by feminist sociologist Roslyn Bologh, which she proposes as a model of interpersonal sociality and an alternative to competition, conflict, and coercion, the prevailing forms of relationships in the 20th century.

A production by Studio Isabel Lewis and Callies Berlin.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATION

The Belvedere 21 museum serves as a venue for contemporary Austrian and international art and as such is an interface for visual art, music, film, architecture, and performance. Isabel Lewis's project also creates such interfaces. Lewis works with a wide variety of artistic media such as sound, movement, and installation-like stage elements distributed throughout the space to capture her surroundings. At the Belvedere 21, she has created a new layer for visitors and a link between the inside and outside that allows strong interaction between the two due to the architectural airiness. The versatility of *Urban Flourishing* thus fits perfectly into the Belvedere 21 programming, which presents the performance during a period between two exhibitions on the ground floor.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Isabel Lewis, born in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic in 1981, lives and works as an artist in Berlin. She began her career working within the context of contemporary dance. In recent years, her works have broken the boundaries of a single form of presentation, becoming a hybrid of lecture, movement, music, food, scents, and much more. Her art projects have been shown at the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève; the Liverpool Biennial; the Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA); *Tanz im August*, Berlin; the Gothenburg International Biennial for Contemporary Art; the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Tate Modern, London; the Gropius Bau, Berlin; and the Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main.