



Gøneja *
Thresholds

25 November -17 December 2023
Opening: 24 November 2023, 6 -10 pm

In observance of a rite of passage known as “Ascent to Heaven”, neophytes of ancient Egyptian magic walked through the secret passages of the Temple of Edfu to reach its subterranean chambers. Laying in these grave/womb-like environments in darkness and sensory deprivation for days, the aspiring adepts experienced a detachment from their physical bodies which opened a portal through which their souls travelled to other dimensions. These ceremonies stood as a symbolic death and rebirth of the novices into a whole new state of consciousness, achieved by means of *initiation*.

In crossing these *thresholds*, initiates transcended ordinary awareness through mystical revelations and returned to the material plane with an amplified perception and a deeper sense of purpose. These rituals of spiritual renewal marked the passage from an individual, mundane condition to attaining a universal, trans-temporal perspective. As one experiences divine fullness one dies in their profane existence, to be born anew in their sacred life.

With a series of recent photographs and sculptures, the new solo exhibition “Threshold” by Berlin-based Gøneja * explores contemporary initiatory gateways. It presents a syncretism of subjects that encompasses: ancestral body rituals of peculiar practitioners, magical sigils as sculptural objects made of industrial materials, and ancient esoteric symbolism in nude embodiments.

In “Luna Duran: Venus Conjunct Chiron” the artist collaborates with the Bolivian performer to portray a celestial alignment charged with a deep personal and astrological meaning for the latter. Through a full body hook suspension and hand-made jewellery pierced onto her thigh the myth of the wounded centaur in conjunction with Venus in the night sky comes alive within the raw walls of an industrial underground tower.

In “Beyond The Naked Eye” the artist creates a three-dimensional planetary hieroglyph that incorporates in a metal structure the alchemical symbols of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, all invisible to the human eye. The sculptural sigil thus becomes an invitation to ponder the hidden forces acting upon one’s life.

Through a rich diversity of subjects “Thresholds” re-envision the ancient art of initiation as an aesthetic practice grounded in the contemporary urban world. It re-frames this heavily-charged ancestral method as an open-ended spiritual and artistic tool available in our modern lives.

Gøneja * (1987, Milan) [he/they] is a photographer and sculptor based in Berlin whose work explores symbol, ritual and magic. He has published internationally and has released two books. Their work has been exhibited across Europe including group shows at The Holy Art Gallery (London), Palazzo Bembo (Venice), and Rossocinabro Gallery (Rome) as well as two previous solo exhibitions in Berlin at tête (2020) and Organ Kritischer Kunst (2022).

Organ Kritischer Kunst
Prinzenallee 29
13359 Berlin
www.kritishe-kunst.org

List Of Works & Credits

1. *Beyond The Naked Eye*
2023
Steel
58 x 44 x 11 cm

2. *Gate Of The Sun*
2022
Inkjet print on plate,
shadow-box frame
77 x 106 x 5 cm

3. *Leonard: Vanitas*
2023
Inkjet print
66 x 79 cm
Lighting: Ashley Young

4. *Lifteth The Needy
Out Of The Dunghill*
2023
Steel
57 x 54 x 3 cm

5. *Stefani Taiuti*
2023
Inkjet print
66 x 92 cm
Lighting: Ashley Young

6. *Tarot: Thoth*
2022
Inkjet print
46 x 57 cm

7. *Hieroglyph*
2023
Concrete, fiberglas
50 x 35 x 10 cm

8. *Kristina: Sphinx*
2022
Inkjet print on plate,
shadow-box frame
88 x 102 x 5 cm
Lighting: Ashley Young

9. *Luna Duran:
Venus Conjunct Chiron*
2023
Inkjet print, sound
100 x 130 cm
13:20 mins, loop

Concept & sound installation: Luna Duran
Suspension: Darkam Arcadia & Beto Rea
(Santa Sangre Body Rituals)
Lighting: Lorenzo Pennati
Recording: Jessyca R. Hauser

10. *Untitled: Totem*
2023
Concrete
66 x 24 x 6 cm

11. *Invocation*
2023
Steel
35 x 33 x 35 cm

