

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Switzerland, lives and works between Lausanne and Montréal.

Xénia Lucie Laffely has a background in fashion design, french literature, art history and feminist studies - studied in Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design of Geneva, University of Lausanne and University of Quebec in Montréal.

In 2020, she was shortlisted for the Swiss Art Awards (cancelled edition due of Covid). She has been awarded by the Swiss Design Awards (2018), the Leenaards Cultural Grants (2014) and the Hans Wilsdorf Award of Excellence (2012).

She had recent solo and duo shows at Kunstraum Niederosterreich, Vienna ; Valentin 61, Lausanne ; Casa Bianca, Montréal ; Last Tango, Zurich ; Ferme de la chapelle, Geneva.

She has participated in group exhibitions at Rad Hourani Gallery, Montréal ; Mayten's, Toronto ; Plain Gallery, Milano ; Fondation du Doute, Blois ; Centre National d'Art Graphique Le Signe, Chaumont.

Laffely's practice combines the traditional language of textile work with the contemporary aesthetic of digital photoshopped painting, creating hybrid pieces that questions hierarchies between art, design and crafts. She creates a lively sentimental reappropriation of issues related to domestic space, intimacy, queer love and self-fiction.

« Xénia Lucie Laffely's visual language has an affinity to post-internet aesthetics with slick Photoshopped gradients as backdrops and trippy environments with surreal appearances of bodies. Her textile pieces are appealing and yet also somehow disturbing. It is a space inhabited by characters with hybrid identities, porous bodies with snake-like protrusions and claw-like nails, pointing to Laffely's interest in the fine line between hyper femininity and the witch persona.

She devotes deep contemplation to their making, merging modern digital techniques with traditional craftsmanship to disrupt sexist and ethnocentric stereotypes associated with textile art. Through a very specific process of digital painting, textile printing, patchwork and layering, embroidering, quilting and framing, her work highlights the richness of a material lead approach of textile.»

Linda Jensen and Arianna Gellini
Last Tango, 2019

SOLO & DUO EXHIBITIONS

2022	(tba) Eastern Edge, St John, New Foundland, Canada
2021	(tba) Eeeh, Nyon, Switzerland Puzzled (with Suzanna Flock), Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna, Austria Si les cuisses sifflaient , Valentin 61, Lausanne, Switzerland
2020	Swan Lamp , Casa Bianca, Montréal, Canada / Swiss Art Awards digital
2019	Expanding Bodies (with Nastasia Mera), Villa Bernasconi, Ferme de la Chapelle, Geneva
2018	Meeting (with Dieter Hall), Galerie Last Tango, Zurich Buste , Design Parade, Hôtel de la Reine Jane, Hyères Ghosts fever (with Valérie Reding), Espace d'art du Cabanon, Lausanne #9 , Galerie Strawberry fields, Genève Dry your feminist tears (with A-V Zuber), Fête du Slip, Galerie Forma, Lausanne
2017	Bienvenue chez les Charles , Villa Noailles, Hyères

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021	(tba) Mayten's, Toronto (tba) Meta Movement Land , Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, Netherlands Maison Modèle , Centre Clark, Montréal WE , Rad Hourani Gallery, Montréal
2020	Living Cube #4 , Galerie B., Orléans, France Love my way , Villa Noailles, 35 Fashion and Photography Festival, Hyères, France Temple du futur , 13 Desserts, 35 Fashion and Photography Festival, Hyères After Party , Fondation du doute, Blois, France Opening show , Plain Gallery, Milano, Italy Des seins à desseins , Espace Arlaud, Lausanne, Switzerland Héros, Héroïnes , Villa Noailles, Hyères, France
2019	Living Cube # 3 , Orléans De toute les façons , (curated by studio GGSV), Centre National d'Art Graphique Le Signe, Chaumont, France Nouveaux regards 2 , Villa Noailles, Hyères, France We couldn't find the door , Fey Art festival, Fey, France Swiss , Palazzo Litta, Design Week Fuori Salone, Milano, Italy
2018	Noces barbares , Espace des Chiffonniers, Toulouse, France Design Parade , Villa Noailles, Hyères, France Charles et Marie Laure de Noailles , MAD windows, Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris Swiss Design Awards , (winner), Basel
2017	Bourses Déliée (winner), FCAC, Design Days, Genève Exposition inaugurale , galerie Les lofts du vieux ports, Marseille

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

2020	Swiss Art Awards, Switzerland
2019	Grant for artistic research, Pro Helvetia, Switzerland
2018	Winner, Swiss Design Awards, Basel
2017	Finalist, Design Preis Schweiz, Langenthal
2017	Finalist, Croix-Rouge x HEAD award, Geneva
2017	Semi-finalist, Design Preis Schweiz, Langenthal
2017	Winner, Bourses Défilées, Contemporary Art Found, Geneva
2015	Cultural grant, Leenaards Foundation, Switzerland
2013	Semi-finalist, H&M Award
2013	Finalist, International fashion and photography festival, Hyères
2012	Excellence grant, Hans Wilsdorf Foundation

RESIDENCIES

2022	(tba) Residency and solo show, Eastern Edge, St John, New Foundland, Canada
2021	Residency and solo show, Eeeeh, Nyon, Switzerland
2018	Artistic residency, Pompadour Center, Ercourt, France