

Press Release

Synthesis Gallery, the first VR art gallery, announces its upcoming show 'Sorry, I didn't mean to break it' by Lauren Moffatt curated by Saki Hibino and Giorgio Vitale, as part of Berlin Art Week and Retune Festival.

The exhibition will feature a mix of paintings and a VR artwork. The two are strictly interwoven: parts of the paintings have been digitally scanned and transported into the Virtual Reality environment.

In her new virtual reality installation *Beyond the Rubicon*, Moffatt further explores the creation of virtual space in terms of emotion and memory. In the work, the viewer encounters seven sculptural objects suspended in a confined gallery space. The grainy black and white walls of the enclosure suggest the evocative texture of film stock, while the binary code scrolling across the ceiling betrays the digital composition of the virtual world. The sculptures themselves are distorted 3D renderings of bodies created by scanning moving images from film and television, that are part of the paintings being exhibited. Depending on the visitor's point of view, the objects shift from resembling familiar depictions of powerful, young heroines to evoking grotesque cubist portraiture based on the erratic success of the scanning process. As visitors virtually touch these objects, the hand controllers rumble until the sculpture fractures into digital fragments, producing momentary static and finally silence. After each of the objects disintegrates, the virtual space disappears and the viewer is returned to the beginning of the piece.

The ultimate ephemerality of the sculptural objects in *Beyond the Rubicon* raises provocative questions about materiality and preservation in connection to the virtual. The impossibility of grasping these virtual objects coupled with their inevitable disintegration suggests some ambivalence about the role of digital media in issues relating to access, memory, and the archive. *Beyond the Rubicon* grapples with the crucial matter of how recent digital technology reshapes one's sense of self as well as the self's relationship to physical and virtual environments. These issues must be carefully considered, as we have passed the point of no return in our engagement with and in digital worlds. *Text: Harry Burson*

The exhibition has been selected and referred by [Berlin Art Week](#) and will participate to [Retune Festival](#).

Lauren Moffatt is an Australian artist working between video, performance and immersive technologies. Her works, often presented in multiple forms, explore the paradoxical subjectivity of connected bodies and the friction at the frontiers between virtual and physical worlds. Her works have been screened and exhibited most recently at Palais de Tokyo (FR), Villa Medici (IT), UNSW Galleries (AU), Daegu Art Museum (KOR), Museum Dr. Guislain (BE), SAVVY Contemporary (DE), FACT Liverpool (UK), the Werkleitz Festival (DE) The Sundance Film Festival (US) and at the ZKM (DE).

Synthesis Gallery is an immersive blend of technology and art displayed under one roof, showcasing cutting-edge experiences by new wave artists and visionaries through virtual reality. We are a space to experience and experiment with the state between dream and reality. Pieces are displayed through different media. Tangible and traditional artforms intermingle with Oculus and Hive headsets. Submerge into the uncharted. Focus on the abstract. Reevaluate reality.

Opening: September 28th, 11am-6pm;

Opening Reception: September 28th, 6pm-9pm; [RSVP](#)

Exhibition: September 28-30th 2018, 11am-7pm

Press Accreditation: Giorgio Vitale, giorgio@synthesis.gallery, +49 176 325 10217

Admission: €5

Synthesis Gallery

Simplonstraße 55, 10245 Berlin - Germany

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[Opening | 'Sorry, I didn't mean to break it' - Lauren Moffatt](#)

Website synthesis.gallery