

# *Singing With the Wolves*

*2 September - 8 October, 2022*

melanie bonajo

Margit Lukács & Persijn Broersen and Smári Róbertson

Charlotte Schleiffert

*All photos are made by Peter Tijhuis*



*Installation View at AKINCI*

One of the protagonists in *Singing with the Wolves* is a video animation of a white wolf by artist duo Margit Lukács and Persijn Broersen in collaboration with Smári Róbertsson. The animal is trotting slowly towards the viewer while humming Frank Sinatra's 'East of the Sun, West of the Moon'. In this exhibition the main characters are non-humans or partly humans like the monumental hybrid figures by Charlotte Schleiffert.

With their film *Progress vs Sunsets* – re-formulating the Nature Documentary (2017) melanie bonajo raise the question: 'Can we send 'funny' animal videos into space for aliens to discover the Earth's cosystem?'

In fairy tales and myths it is quite common that the fate of humans and animals interact. Very often humans transform into animals and back to humans again, when the spell is broken. In the video animation *East of the Sun, West of the Moon* by Margit Lukács and Persijn Broersen, the title leads us to a Nordic fairy tale about a prince who by a curse has become a whitebear and lives East of the Sun and West of the Moon. It is unknown why, but this fairy tale ended up to become a song performed by Frank Sinatra in 1940.

During their stay in Hybrida, an artist residency in Sweden, Margit Lukács and Persijn Broersen encountered an ancient wasteland of the iron industry that had turned into wilderness and was inhabited by wolves. Triggered by the landscape and the wolves, in collaboration with Smári Róbertsson, the artist duo transformed Sinatra's song into a desperately growling plea for love, embodied by a white wolf. Spinning in circles, the hybrid wolf-man-creature is torn between the natural and the virtual, the animal and the human within him.

What seems natural in fairy tales does not happen to humans in real life. Humans do not change into animals as in fact they too belong to the same species. Seen from that point of view, humans are the most dangerous predators on the planet\*. The differentiation human and non-human, brilliantly exposed by melanie bonajo in their publication *MB – Matrix Botanica / Non-Human Persons* (2015)\* provides deeper understanding as it invites to turn the tables.

It offers a new view on an old prejudice that only humans are persons with the ability to experience themselves as individuals. In the film *Progress vs Sunsets* - re-formulating the *Nature Documentary* (2017), melanie bonajo explores in 48 minutes and 20 seconds how children reflect on non-human animal images which they encounter on internet.

On a deeper level this film is a research about how close children are capable to feel related to non-human animals and what that could mean for the survival of the species.



*melanie bonajo, Progress vs Sunsets (Daisy), 2019, Ultra chrome, canson Lustre, museum glass, 54,5x97,5 cm*

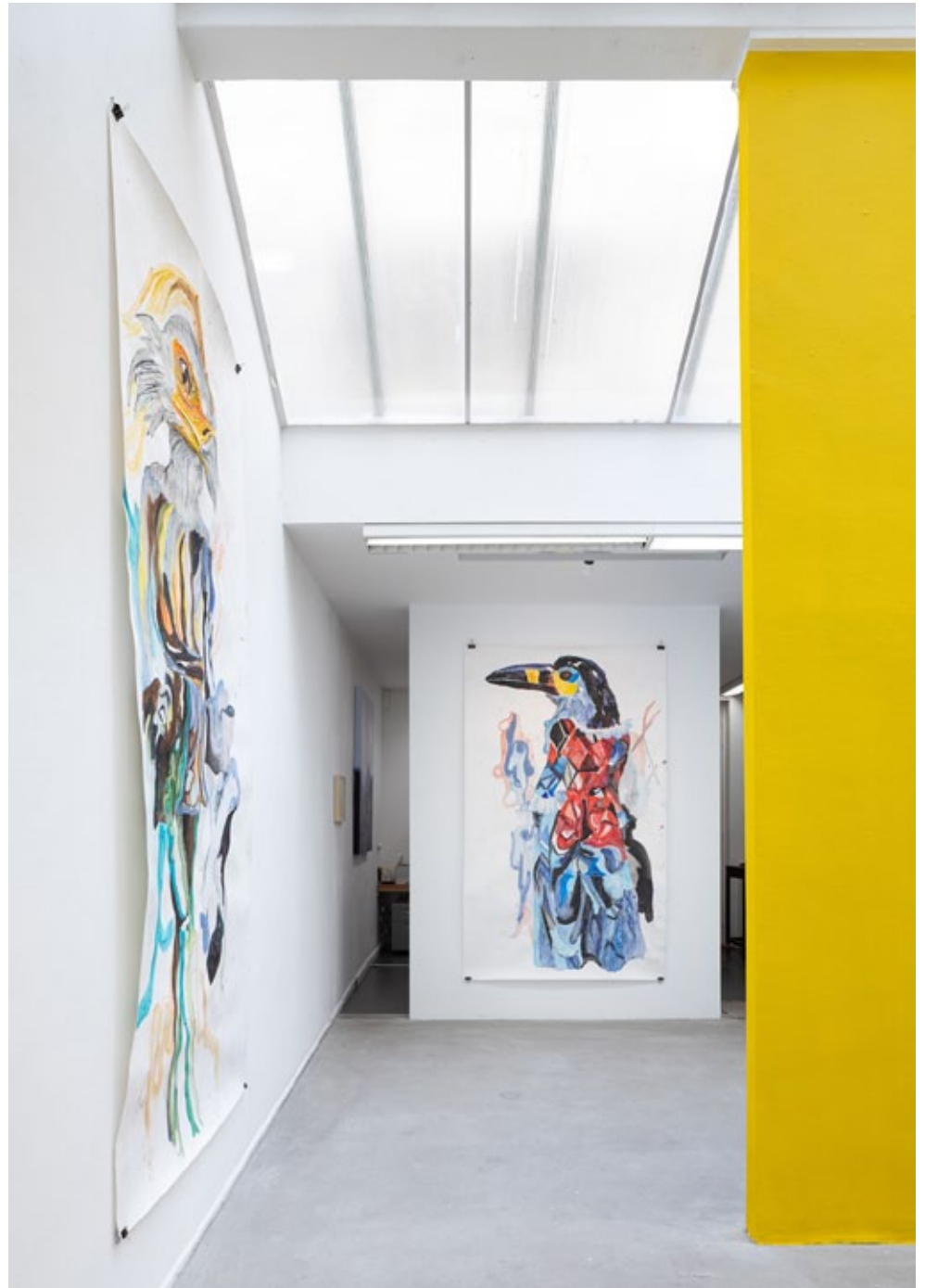




Installation View at AKINCI



*melanie bonajo, Progress vs Sunsets, 2019, full HD one-channel colour video with sound, 48:20 minutes*



*Charlotte Schleiffert, Save Ukraine, 2022, Mixed technique on paper, 300x150cm*



*melanie bonajo, Progress vs Sunsets (Daisy), 2019, Ultra chrome, canson Lustre, museum glass, 54,5x97,5 cm*





*Margit Lukács & Persijn Broersen and Smári Róbertson East of the Sun, West of the Moon, 2022, 4K, sound, 4 minutes loop*





*Margit Lukács & Persijn Broersen and Smári Róbertson East of the Sun, West of the Moon, 2022, 4K, sound, 4 minutes loop*



Left: Charlotte Schleiffert, *Save Ukraine*, 2022, Mixed technique on paper, 300x150cm  
Right: Charlotte Schleiffert, *Miss Sagittarius*, 2021, Mixed technique on paper, 302x150cm



Charlotte Schleiffert, *My life with reptiles and amphibians*, 2022, Mixed technique on paper, 150x302cm





Charlotte Schleiffert, *Haasvrouw/Harelady*, 2022, Mixed technique on paper, 2022, 152x132cm





*Installation View at AKINCI*