

The Austrian Cultural Forum London (ACF) promotes cultural contacts between the United Kingdom and Austria by organising events and supporting artists and projects in the fields of music, performing arts, visual arts, literature, film and science. It also provides a venue in central London for recitals, lectures, readings, film screenings, conferences and exhibitions, while also cooperating with various partners throughout the UK.

In recent years the creation of relationships and cooperation between Austrian and British artists and institutions has become a major part of our work. Particularly in politically challenging times, art and culture play an important role in bringing people together and in bridging gaps. We are therefore delighted to present yet another group exhibition of young Austrian and UK based artists and hope to contribute to the creation of a new network of creative Europeans.

This exhibition project originated from a shared interest in surfaces and their porosity. The curators have chosen to use a transversal and evocative approach placing on the same level different kind of surfaces through which we all experience and perceive the world. The show builds in fact on considerations around surfaces that seemingly "separate" worlds. The skin of human bodies, the walls and windows of our homes and the screens of our technologically advanced devices, all become case studies to explore blurred antinomies of notions of "inside" and "outside". The selected artists have been invited to showcase their perception of the world through surfaces and materials, but also to consider technology as a way to perceive new realities. Creativity once again proves to be a gateway to alternative possibilities.

This project is the result of the joint efforts of talented and dedicated young professionals. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the curators Catarina Avataneo and Nicole Tatschl, to the participating artists and to my team at the Austrian Cultural Forum London.

Tünde Huber, Director, ACF, February 2020

You are entering Hypersurface

Hypersurface is a set of relations. A body penetrating another body and coexisting with it, in all its parts. Hypersurface is your skin. The screen of your phone. Hypersurface is this, now, where you are. This building and its breathing walls.

Hypersurface is something beyond, an aeon of becoming, a porous membrane whose transuding sweat gets straight to your eyes from the inside and then purges outside, as a tear.

Hypersurface is both real and virtual, it asks to be looked at in order to see through. Like a phantasm, it blurs physical limits and brings its internal and external sides into contact, unfolding them onto a single face.

Hypersurface is deep, and travels through loopy arteries.

Hypersurface is thinking, where there are no antinomies, no paradoxes but a constant unfolding and enfolding of immanent forces.

Hypersurface is a gate, a journey to a post-virtual garden whose roots grow on your skin. Hypersurface is a six-fingered palm where you can read the future of the planet, a nervous system transmitting distorted versions of Earth. It is a window, an eye on the world or a soft fleshy blob. It can be touched, it can be pierced and it will take you somewhere.

As paradoxical as the act of entering a surface can seem, it is not. Not only because Hypersurface is a show, but because Hypersurface is about porosity, transversality and encounter. The show aims to material and conceptual exchanges, where artists articulate thought and let this become somehow perceptible. Surfaces - from the human skin to walls and screens - cease to be thought of as separators or protective layers, opening up possibilities beyond materiality and signification, and alternative understandings of our surroundings.

CATERINA AVATANEO