

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS-RELEASE

Things I Bring From Home

Polly Maher, Sibyl Montague, Mieke Vanmechelen
curated by Helen Carey

Opening Reception: Friday, 13th September 2024, 6 – 10pm

Meet & Greet: Saturday, 14th September 2024, 11am – 3pm

The artists and the curator will be present on both days.

galerie michaela stock, Prater Straße 17, 1020 Vienna

The exhibition "*Things I Bring From Home*", explores ideas of what makes you feel at home, what do you bring with you when you leave home, and what are likely and unlikely ideas of home in the work of Mieke Vanmechelen, Polly Maher and Sibyl Montague. The artists grasp at meanings of familiarity, of behaviour, of object, asking what brings you right back to a place, to a time. What is a provocation of the intimacy and vulnerability of safety and security or maybe of loss and memory long gone or that never was.

With mixed media and room for the viewer's own experience, this exhibition suggests that imagination and memory play a part which is sometimes treacherous, in the meaning of home. These artworks provoke questions about the intimate connections we form with our surroundings, the objects we cherish, and the memories they hold. Through them, the exhibition seeks to connect with viewers on a deeply personal level, offering space for reflection on the universality of the home-coming and home-leaving experience and the emotional landscapes encompassed.

Fire Station Artists' Studio is unique in Ireland: it provides a place to live and to work for 9 artists for varying lengths of time, sometimes years. *galerie michaela stock* and *Fire Station Artists' Studios* continue to embed the connections between Ireland and Austria, FSAS artists have found a place in Vienna with *galerie michaela stock* that makes them feel at home. This feeling of being at home comes from many sources. Mieke Vanmechelen is currently a resident in FSAS, Sibyl Montague is a FSAS Practice awardee, and Polly Maher has worked with Helen Carey previously and is currently based in Hamburg.

Polly Maher (b. 1998, Wexford) engages with rural narratives through her paintings, photography, and collected artefacts. Her work examines the soft, often-overlooked qualities in the harsh materials and objects found in rural sheds, highlighting the fine line between functionality and emotional attachment. Maher's art focuses on the stories embedded in everyday objects. Polly Maher graduated with first-class honors in Fine Art Paint and Education from NCAD and completed her MA in Painting and Drawing at Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg. <https://www.pollymaher.com/>

Sibyl Montague (b. 1979, Cork) combines sculpture, assemblage, video, and installation to challenge conventional relationships with objects. Her practice blends diverse materials, including textiles and digital media, to create assemblages that function as tools or objects of use. These works explore themes of care, disruption, and ecological consciousness, urging viewers to reconsider the materiality and usability of everyday items. Montague studied at Limerick School of Art & Design and Chelsea College of Art and Design. <https://sibylmontague.com/>

Mieke Vanmechelen (b. 1974, Antwerp), currently in residence at Fire Station Artists' Studios, uses film, moving image, and drawing to reveal the profound narratives hidden within everyday life. Her work often relates to place, drawing on cultural history and the relationship between living beings and the natural world. With a background in Philosophy, Classical Civilisation, and Art & Process, Vanmechelen's practice is a meditative reflection on the intersection of the ordinary and the extraordinary. <https://miekevanmechelen.com/>

Support by **Culture Ireland, Arts Council of Ireland.**

Event Details

Exhibition Title: Things I Bring From Home
Artists: Polly Maher, Sibyl Montague, Mieke Vanmechelen
curated by: Helen Carey/ director *Fire Station Artists' Studio* in Dublin
exhibition dates: 13th September - 19th October 2024

Venue: galerie michaela stock, Prater Straße 17, 1020 Vienna
www.galerie-stock.net

Opening Reception: Friday, 13th September 2024, 18:00 - 22:00

Meet & Greet: Saturday, 14th September 2024, 11:00 - 15:00

PRESS IMAGES / TEXT

We would appreciate a report/mentioning in your medium.

We hereby confirm the approval for the free of charge publication of all sent images / text.

Courtesy: artist / gallery michaela stock

Image 1:

Polly Maher, Lace Curtain, out of the series "Two places", 2022, oil on board, 30 x 35 cm

Courtesy: Polly Maher / gallery michaela stock

Image 2:

Sibyl Montague, Scim / (Bad bird) 2024

Acrylic and marker on paper, 21 x 29.7 cm

Courtesy: Sibyl Montague / gallery michaela stock

Image 3:

Mieke Vanmechelen, Fine Art Print on Dibond, Eamonn and Anne, 49 x 33.7cm

Courtesy: Mieke Vanmechelen / gallery michaela stock

For media inquiries, high-resolution images, or interview requests, please contact:

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galerie michaela stock

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opening hours: Wednesday to Friday: 3 - 7 pm, Saturday 11 am – 3 pm