

**NINA E. SCHÖNEFELD**



**TRUTH LAMP (2021), Mixed media sculptural installation, 30 x 150 x 30 cm**

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

*The TRUTH LAMP is a symbol for the fight for democratic rights and for the fight to withstand politically unstable times.*

My strong interest in visionary new artistic developments has led to interdisciplinary video installations. I work with a system of different light sources, sound systems, electronic machines, newly built sculptures, costumes, interiors and video screenings. In many of the video installations, the existing exhibition space was used in such a way that the space seemed like a film set from the projected video work. My sculptures combine unconventional materials such as animal fur, fetish chains, light bulbs, black miniature tiles, vases or vessels, Asian ceramic gold dragons, luxurious fabrics, furniture parts, small computer screens and technical vintage machines. There is a certain paradox in my objects, but it is intentional: on the one hand they radiate preciousness, sparkling infinity & uniqueness and on the other hand one has associations with abyss, demise and death. A new beginning arises from death, but at the same time you think of transitoriness and decay.



**B. T. R. (BORN TO RUN) (2020), HD video, 20 min. 3 sec.**

Written, Edited & Directed: Nina E. Schönefeld

Director of Photography: Valentin Giebel

Sound & Music: Carlos Pablo Villamizar. / Special thanks to DJ Hell

Selected speeches: Julian Assange - 'I cannot forgive terrible injustice', 2017 \*\*\* Chelsea Manning - Chelsea Manning on Wikileaks, trans politics & data privacy, 2018 \*\*\* Luvvie Ajayi - Get comfortable with being uncomfortable, 2018 \*\*\* Edward Snowden - In Conversation with Edward Snowden, 2019

Starring: Anastasia Keren, Thinley Wingen, Alexander Skorobogatov, Lucie Schoenefeld, Oda Langner, Emil von Gwinner, Keschia Zimbinga, Ana Dossantos, Chantal Hountondji, Nasra Mohamad Mut, Yuko Tanaka Betts, Falko Nickel, Johanna Langner, Anna Esdal, Stella Junghanss, Nina Philipp, Mike Betts, Christopher Schoenefeld, Joanna Buchowska, Alexander Sudin, Andreas Templin, Dirk Lehr, Ginger Fikus, Talia Bakkal, Acelya Bellican, Marlah Lewis, Amira Yasmin, Josephine Lang, Leo Burkhardt, Lisa Nasner, Violetta Weyer, Marina Wilde, Timothy Long, Sean Jackson, Riley Warren, Katja Turnella, Hansa Wisskirchen

Schönefeld's art examines the contemporary social and political climate. Through unusual mediums, objects and videos, Schönefeld questions the contemporary roles of artists, exploring the relationship between art, blockbuster movies and the present digital age. Her stories imagine a world where, due to drastic political shift, we need to fight for our democratic rights and survival. A concept that perhaps is not so far fetched?

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*B. T. R. (B O R N T O R U N) is a symbol for the fact that the law of the press as the fourth power in the state must be respected.*

*The fact that nowadays it is possible to influence the political power structure via data sales on social networks is very dangerous for our democracies.*

My video work *B. T. R.* (B O R N T O R U N, 2020), which is also shown in Zionskirche for *Points of Resistance*, is about the world domination of right wing authoritarian autocracies and the complete prohibition of publication. It is also about the possible extradition of Julian Assange to the US and what this could mean worldwide for the situation of independent publishers, whistleblowers and journalists in the future.

*“In case there would be a drastic political change in your country you will need special advice and gear to survive... Get prepared.”*

The story of Schönefeld’s video *B. T. R.* is set in the year 2043 and deals with the subject of authoritarian autocracies and the complete restriction of journalists. It also deals with the possible extradition of Julian Assange to the US and what it could mean for the situation of independent publicists, whistleblowers, and journalists worldwide in the future. In the year 2043 data is the most valuable asset on earth because data is being used to win elections. Authoritarian rightwing governments have the majority worldwide. They have implemented education camps for the youth to gain more power and influence. Movie heroine S.K.Y. grew up in one of those education camps called WHITE ROCK. She doesn’t know anything about her parents. She starts to research about her heritage. During this process, she gets in touch with a group of independent journalists and publishers. They are the most persecuted people on earth which means that they are threatened by prison and death every day. It seems that freedom of speech is lost – forever...

The video *B. T. R.* was created as a science fiction story but it has its roots in the present time. It shows a future scenario of what could happen when people do not follow political decisions made in their countries and when they do not start to question undemocratic movements. Democracy can be easily lost if the freedom of press as fourth power in a country is restricted. Quotes from the movie like “Think of the press as a great keyboard on which the government can play” are taken from leaders of Third Reich – in this case from Joseph Goebbels. But you can find these kinds of statements also in today’s speeches of rightwing parties everywhere in the world. Today rightwing parties in Europe are on the rise (Poland, Hungary, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, etc.), journalists and publishers are put in jail like in Turkey. The parallels between our times in a lot of European countries (especially in Germany) and past times in the 1920ies in Germany are scary. The story of the movie *B. T. R.* is based on several documentaries. The quoted documentaries deal with Third Reich, Weimar Republic, with strategies of rightwing parties in today’s Europe, with deserters of the rightwing scene like Franziska Schreiber and Heidi Benneckenstein. They also deal with practices of “hunting down” independent journalists, whistleblowers, and publishers like Julian Assange, Edward Snowden & Chelsea Manning.

Andrea Röpke – a German journalist who has published information about the rightwing scene in Germany for decades – was one of the biggest inspirations for the movie. She will never give up filming, researching &

publishing even if she is facing violent attacks. *Cambridge Analytica's greatest hack* – a Netflix documentary – deals with the dangers of influencing elections by influencing people through data in social networks. In the story of *B. T. R.* companies similar to Cambridge Analytica are integral part of how parties win elections, the system has been built on lies.

The film basically develops a future scenario in which authoritarian rightwing parties all over the world have taken over power. A free press (according to AFD “press of lies”) has been abolished. In the year 2043 it is no longer possible to express one’s opinion. Independent journalists and publicists are not allowed to report about reality. Rightwing governments have implemented education camps for the youth to gain more power. The role of heroine S.K.Y. is inspired by rightwing deserter Heidi Benneckenstein. She grew up in a far rightwing family in Germany and had to visit rightwing education camps every school holiday. In 2011 when she was 19 years old she decided to quit this surrounding which is supposed to be very dangerous. She said the initial moment in her life to desert family and friends was when she was pregnant herself. To be forced to put your own child in the same environment based on fear and hate was unbearable for her. She went through hell in her childhood. She was never allowed to question anything and to develop into an independent person with her own opinions. Today finally she is... risking her life every day.

*B. T. R.* has been intended as a film of the future but has its roots in the present. It is based on detailed research (e.g. on *Julian Assange & Edward Snowden*, on *Cambridge Analytica*, on investigative journalism and far rightwing movements).

## BIO

Nina E. Schönefeld is a multidisciplinary artist based in Berlin. She studied Fine Art in Berlin at UdK, and in London at the Royal College of Art. She holds a Master of Arts and a PhD in Art Theory (Dr. Phil.). For several years she has been lecturing at private art colleges in the field of visual arts. Together with Marina Wilde she founded "Last Night In Berlin", a cultural project/blog documenting art openings in Berlin. Schönefeld lives and works in Berlin.

Schönefeld’s strong interest in new artistic developments has resulted in interdisciplinary video installations - an overall system of light sources (lamps, movement detectors etc.), sound systems (mixers etc.), electronic machines, computer screens, newly built sculptures, interiors and video projections. The focus of Nina E. Schönefeld’s diverse practice lies on political, social and digital changes in society... phenomena of abrupt shift... escape from political persecution, hacking attacks, nuclear accidents, dictatorships, freedom of speech and a free press... people who are radically different ... the lives of hackers and preppers, political activists, investigative journalists, environmental activists, Wikileaks members, NSA employees, data martyrs, political underdogs, hermits, computer gamefanatics, cult members, extremists, the Darknet, Julien Assange, Edward Snowden, the blackout in NY, Chernobyl and Fukushima, the control center of the CIA, the Chaos Computer

Club, North Korea, the right wing movement, Children of God, Suprematism, the Bauhaus, Zero, insular colonies, digital inventions and radical social networks ...

## CV

### EXHIBITIONS (selection):

#### Upcoming shows in 2021

Corona Culture @Alte Münze, Berlin, Germany

Embark @129 GALLERY (exhibition boat), Berlin, Germany

Am Limit @Cole mine Důl Michal in Ostrava, Czech Republic (supported by the GoetheInstitutes in Prague & Bratislava)

Video Art @Art Space Changsha City, China

#### 2021

RoppongiArtNightSpin-off @Roppongi Art Night Tokyo, Japan

#### 2020

Facing New Challenges: Water @Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany

D1G1TAL S3CR3TS @DIE DIGITALE, Weltkunstzimmer, Düsseldorf, Germany

At the Limit @Kunsthalle Bratislava Museum, Slovakia

Boxenstopp @KWADRAT Gallery, Berlin Germany

Beyond Elysium @Kleiner Von Wiese Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Something True @Schau Fenster, Berlin, Germany

#Payetonconfinement @Galerie la Pierre Large, Strasbourg, France

COVIDecameron @Momentum Worldwide/ Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

N.O.R.O.C.2.3. & #preppercoat @Contemplatio Art, Germany

L'Artiste Et Les Commissaires @Lage Egal, Berlin, Germany

#### 2019

L.E.O.P.A.R.T. @Philipp Haverkampf Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Trilogy of Tomorrow @Galerie la Pierre Large, Strasbourg, France

Show Me Your Selfie @Aram Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea

Salon Hansa: InterINTIMES AutoPORTRAIT @Lachenmann Art Konstanz, Germany

Salon Hansa: InterINTIMES\_AutoPORTRAIT @Lachenmann Art Frankfurt/Main, Germany

SHOW ME YOUR SELFIE @DISKURS Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Topographies of The Stack @Alternative Culture Making Art Space, Shenzhen, China

Water(Proof) @Federation Square, Melbourne, VIC Australia

Zeit, sich zu berauschen – eine Essenz @Salon Gallery, Berlin, Germany

+1 @Safe Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Water(proof) @Momentum Worldwide / Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, Germany



*Anima Mundi Festival 2019 – Consciousness @Palazzo Ca' Zanardi, Venice, Italy*  
*Anima Mundi Arts Festival @THE ROOM Contemporary Art Space, Venice, Italy*  
*Il est temps de s'enivrer | Zeit, sich zu berauschen @Bamhaus Luxembourg, Luxembourg*  
*Kommunizierende Röhren 2 @Salon Rene Holm, Berlin, Germany*  
*Mitte Media Festival 2019, Berlin, Germany*  
*Light Year 48: Digital Fairy Tales: Vengeance is Mine @Manhattan Bridge / The Leo Kuelbs Collection, New York, United States*  
*Digital Fairy Tales: Vengeance is Mine @Made In NY Media Center by IFP, New York City, United States*  
*? Art Is My Revenge @Lage Egal, Berlin, Germany*  
*Villa Heike & Other Stories @Villa Heike, Berlin, Germany*  
*Not So A White Cube #1 – #Notsoawhitecube @Lage Egal, Berlin, Germany*

2018

*12x12 - Nina E. Schönefeld @Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany*  
*Galleryweekend @Fahrbereitschaft/coGalleries, Berlin, Germany*  
*30 Jahre. 30 Fragen. 30 Stunden. @Goethe Institut – Beijing, China*  
*Sluice Exchange @Kühlhaus, Berlin, Germany*  
*The Missing Room @Lage Egal, Berlin, Germany*  
*BBA Artist Prize 2018 @BBA Gallery, Berlin, Germany*  
*Join the Dots / Unire le distanze Salone Degli Incanti @Ex Pescheria Centrale, Trieste, Italy*  
*Too early @Kosmetiksalon Babette, Berlin, Germany*  
*Mitte Media Festival 2018 @Mitte Media Festival, Berlin, Germany*  
*Festival für zeitgenössische Skulptur @Atelierhof Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany*  
*Liquid Rooms - The Labyrinth @Palazzo Ca' Zanardi, Venice, Italy*  
*The Body Language @THE ROOM Contemporary Art Space, Venice, Italy*

2017

*A Hacker On The Run @Bilderrahmen Neumann / Fahrbereitschaft, Berlin, Germany*  
*The Rise of Black Wolf @coGalleries, Berlin, Germany*  
*AR\_29 Open Studios 2017 @AR 29, Berlin, Germany*  
*La Table Ronde @DISKURS Gallery, Berlin, Germany*  
*Mitte Media Festival 2017 @Mitte Media Festival, Berlin, Germany*  
*Light Year 25 @Manhattan Bridge / Leo Kuelbs Collection, New York City, United States*

2016

*BLACK ISLAND WHITE STAR, solo show, Fata Morgana Gallery, Berlin, curated by Sandra Ratkovic & Leo Kuelbs \*\*\* BLACK ISLAND WHITE STAR II, solo show, LARRY'S SHOW, curated by Hannes Gruber \*\*\* BEDSITTER ART FAIR, group show, Vienna, curated by Barbara Sturm \*\*\* Catalogue Release Exhibition @Raum Fuer Drastische Massnahmen \*\*\* CAR PARK, group show, Galerie*

SCHAU FENSTER, curated by Hannes Gruber & Nina E. Schönefeld \*\*\* 1 YEAR

WEDNESDAY SHOW, group show @LARRY \*\*\* SOME DEMONSTRATIONS by Charly Stein, group performance/ exhibition, Zurich, Manifestina initiated by Maurizio Cattelan \*\*\* The Artist as Curator's Art, vol.VI, group show, Galerie SCHAU FENSTER, curated by Jan Kage \*\*\* MANIFESTINA GOES PALERMO, group show, PALERMO Galerie, Stuttgart, curated by Christian Jankowski & Maurizio Cattelan \*\*\* CoGalleries OPENING, group show, Fata Morgana, curated by coGalleries-Team \*\*\* Catalogue Release Germany Mon Amour, Fondazione Benetton \*\*\*

2015

FÄLSCHUNG, group show, Atelierhof Kreuzberg, curated by Andreas Helfer \*\*\* YOU ARE THE ARTIST, The Shift, FREUDENREICH Neukölln, curated by Karina Gutman... \*\*\* VIDEOS @Kingsize, 1Year Last Night In Berlin, Artist Night by Martin Kwade \*\*\* BLACK SUN, Dr. Nina E. Schönefeld, solo show, LARRY'S THURSDAY SHOW, curated by Hannes Gruber \*\*\* SELFIE, group show, SCHAU FENSTER, Berlin, curated by Ekaterina Mitichkina \*\*\* CONTEMPORARY IN GERMANY, Benetton Collection group show, Venice - Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, curated by Peter Noever (MAK, Vienna) \*\*\* LARRY'S THURSDAY SHOW, END OF THE YEAR SHOW, curated by Hannes Gruber

2014

DESTROYED LIGHT, solo show, R. Raum für drastische Maßnahmen, curated by Nikolas Claussen \*\*\* LES PROCHAINES II, Between You And Me, curated by Bettina Springer \*\*\* LOST UTOPIA, Hannes Gruber & Nina E. Schönefeld, ACUD Gallery \*\*\* AUKTION, Hauff & Auvermann \*\*\* WALL EXPO 18x24, Art Space Gió Di Sera  
Nina E. Schoenefeld is a guest at Radio Arty on Flux FM. The artist talks about her current exhibition DESTROYED LIGHT.

2013

\*\*\* #14 ONE BY ONE, Kantine Aqua Carre, Berlin, curated by Hannes Gruber and Eli Skatvedt \*\*\* PHANTOMLIKE, Kreuzberg Pavillon, Berlin, curated by Heiko Pfreundt \*\*\* 12 x 12 INCH, R. Raum für drastische Maßnahmen, curated by Meaghan Coles \*\*\* LES PROCHAINES, Between You And Me, curated by Bettina Springer \*\*\* Let It Snow, Kreuzberg Pavillon, Berlin, curated by Heiko Pfreundt and Alessandro Vitali

2012

Politische Poetik, solo show at Espace Surplus Gallery, Berlin, curated by Bettina Springer and Barbara Krijanovsky

#12 Licht, Kantine Aqua Carre, Berlin, curated by Hannes Gruber and Eli Skatvedt \*\*\* #13 RED, Kantine Aqua Carre, Berlin, curated by Hannes Gruber and Eli Skatvedt \*\*\* PARALLAX Art Fair, Chelsea Town Hall, London, curated by Chris Barlow

An article about Nina E. Schoenefeld's new exhibition "Politische Poetik" printed in "taz" on January 11 \*\*\* Nina E. Schoenefeld is a guest at Radio Arty on fluxfm. The artist talks about her current exhibition "Politische Poetik" at Espace Surplus in Berlin. She speaks of her work and the

different manners in which she creates her color objects. \*\*\* KUNSTWELTEN, 100  
zeitgenössische Künstler, Boesner GmbH (Hrsg.), Witten, 623 pages

2011

36 Girls, Bar Babette, curated by Jan Kage and Maik Schierloh \*\*\* Leistungsschau, Kunsthalle am  
Hamburger Platz, Berlin, organized by Markus Wirthmann and Thaddaeus Hueppi \*\*\* Participation 8.  
Berliner Kunstsalon, curated by Edmund Piper \*\*\* p.art - Tage der offenen Ateliers, Berlin

2010

\*\*\* Jenga, Forgotten Bar Project, curated by Viktoria Volozhynska \*\*\* Participation 7. Berliner  
Kunstsalon \*\*\* p.art - Tage der offenen Ateliers, Berlin \*\*\* Gemini 6 Rendezvous, Galerie SCHAU  
FENSTER, Berlin, curated by Johannes Buss, Thomas Gaska & Hannes Gruber