

Chain Reaction – Crystal Path #4

Martin Widmer

Special Guests: Irina Dora, Ricardo Meli and Paulo Wirz

Opening on September 17, 2025, from 5pm

Exhibition from September 18 to October 18, 2025

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm and by appointment

“Chain Reaction” refers to a dynamic in which experiences build upon one another according to a logic inherent to the phenomenon itself. In keeping with this dynamic, Martin Widmer has taken the opportunity of his solo exhibition to invite other artists to present works that resonate with and respond to his own practice.

In *“Chain Reaction”*, Martin Widmer presents pieces, some of which were produced as part of the City of Geneva’s grant for a documentary photography project he received in 2024. The works explore the connection the artist weaves with his environment—specifically, his studio and the Jonction neighborhood where it is located. Widmer has appropriated Kazimir Malevich’s concept of the *“phasma”*, a notion that seeks to define the place, the matrix, of all appearances. Martin Widmer uses his studio, as well as the routes he takes between it and his home, to reveal the conditions under which his work—and the artwork itself—comes into being, in an ontological sense.

The Geneva-based artist and curator Martin Widmer creates a body of work that blurs the boundaries between photography, sculpture, and installation.



Martin Widmer

Lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland

Martin Widmer is a Swiss artist based in Geneva, working across photography, text, and installation. With a background in both visual arts and curatorial studies, his practice revolves around dismantling the photographic image—exploring not just what an image shows, but how it's made, framed, and remembered. His recent works often involve raw materials like aluminum, glass, and cardboard, creating fragile yet deliberate installations that pull viewers into the physical process of image-making. Writing plays an equally important role in Widmer's work. Often composed under self-hypnosis or using prompts like Brian Eno's *Oblique Strategies*, his texts accompany and extend his visual pieces. They read like fragments of memory or thought—reflective, disjointed, and deeply atmospheric—mirroring the instability and impermanence he finds in photography.

Recent exhibitions include *Making Light of Everything* at the Centre de la Photographie Genève (2024) and *WHOOSHH* at Truth and Consequences, Geneva. He has also contributed curatorial projects, including a 2023 exhibition on Jacques Lacan at MAMCO Geneva. Widmer's work invites a closer look at how we see and remember—at the blurred boundaries between image, thought, and perceptio



Irina Dora

Born in Cluj, Romania, lives and works in Romania

Irina Dora Magurean is an artist who works with photography, a medium she uses to experiment and think about photography itself in a metalinguistic way: lights, shapes, colours and shadows populate her images and are the starting and ending point of her works.

In her photographs, Magurean draws inspiration from a detail of an artwork she encounters, from everyday objects with a particular shape, or from a ray of sunlight coming in through a window, creating shadows and reflections. In these photographs, the framing becomes tight, the boundaries blurred until the subject is no longer recognisable thus becoming an abstract composition. Magurean's work is minimalist, she removes everything redundant in order to achieve an essential, semi-pictorial final image that encompasses the basic elements of photography: light and lines. For the artist, cutting out any distracting elements also means leaving more space and freedom to the imagination of the viewer of her photographs.



Ricardo Meli

Born in Zurich, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland

Ricardo Meli is a visual artist working in the field of sculpture, based in Zurich. As a former technical engineer, he engages with the evolving landscapes of design conventions over time, and investigates how industrial elements serve as social and cultural representations. Meli's work is an observation on the constant acceleration of our society and the rapid strides towards digitalization in particular.

He is inspired by the evolution of science fiction. Seeing science fiction not merely as an anticipation, rather than a catalyst for scientific progress. Key to his exploration is the shifting perspective on both, the future and the past, a realization that time is a malleable substance, permanently reconstructed from the present, evolving throughout time.

Continually dealing with the subtle structures of the art industry, and the aesthetics of a post industrial, more and more machine like society that is increasingly moving towards digitalization, serving as a channel for contemplating consciousness within.

Solo exhibitions include Offspace J11 (Bern, 2024); Toxi (Zurich, 2024). Group exhibitions include Offspace Nano (Zurich, 2024); Artspace FOMO (Zurich, 2024); Aux Abris (Lausanne, 2024); Offspace Flüelastrasse (Zurich, 2023); NEST (Zurich, 2022).



Paulo Wirz

Born in Pindamonhangaba, Brazil, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland

In 2008 Paulo Wirz arrived in Switzerland from Brazil for the first time in order to learn German. After studying at the ECAL Lausanne, Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam and ZHDK Zurich, he decided to move to Geneva where he completed the MFA program in contemporary practices at HEAD and received the Prix «New Heads.»

His works bridge the past and the present, and deeply question the social meaning of symbolically charged objects. Similar to an alchemist, Paulo Wirz transforms the materials he uses and draws our attention to the ambiguity of their properties: he changes their state, for example through color, fire, wax or reflections, not only formally but also in their meaning. The works are thus always based on an intrinsic mutability that oscillates between the visible and the invisible, the past and the enduring.

Exhibitions include : Kunsthalle Arbon (2025); Helmhaus (Zurich, 2024); Werkschau Museum Haus Konstruktiv (Zurich, 2023); Kulturfolger (2023); Kunsthalle Palazzo (Liestal, 2022); Swiss Art Awards (Basel, 2021); Société des Arts (Genève, 2021).

