PROOF OF BEING AN ARTIST
AISSA TRIPODI

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In order to produce art, money is needed. Those who don't have it depend on funding. To obtain this funding, one must enter into an arduous process in which one must constantly prove that one is indeed an artist and truly deserves co-financing of production costs. This burden of proof presents a huge challenge for chronically ill artists.
Aissa Tripodis' work deals precisely with this problem. Specifically, how difficult it is for artists with chronic illnesses to realize projects and exhibitions. Because they lack the money (high health costs, loss of income) and the energy to do so.

«Artists are economically dependent on appearing in discourse, public perception, reception, and the media. Because that's when we sell, receive offers, inquiries, prizes, and grants, get invited more frequently, and can continue working. Presence provides us with the necessary working foundations (time, space, money).» [1] Being chronically ill robs us of this visibility.

The largest funding institution rejected co-funding for Tripodi's work as follows: „Your project convinced us very much. However, we were missing proof that you are active as an artist. Exhibit in a few more places and then submit your application again." From this rejection, Aissa Tripodi has now created a new work:

„Proof of being an artist" confronts the contradiction of the funding system. The work consists of nine identical sculptures, each made from an empty, silver medication blister pack and a white wooden pedestal. The packaging normally contains the daily dose of one of the medications Tripodi must take.

Each of the nine sculptures was sent to a person selected by Aissa Tripodi. That person thereby became Tripodi's gallerist and received the following instruction: „The sculpture must be exhibited for at least one week at a location of your choice. The exhibition must be start with an opening (minimum two invited guests) and subsequently documented (photographic recording of opening and exhibition, with location and time details). The gallerist may sell the sculpture at a price they determine themselves. Their commission amounts to a standard industry 40% of the selling price."

[1] Jovana Reisinger, *Pleasure*





BIOGRAPHY

Aissa Tripodi works primarily with the media of photography and film, which they repeatedly combine with objects in space. Tripodi's approaches often move at the intersection between documentation and staging, consciously playing with our perception of reality and fiction.

As a queer chronically ill person, Aissa Tripodi engages intensively with themes such as health, gender, belonging, and class. Personal experiences serve them as starting points for deeper engagement with major societal questions.

Tripodi lives and works in Basel, Zurich, and Berlin.