

## IRINA DORA MAGUREAN

Everything to form  
under the sun

13 Dezember -  
20 January 2023

### Opening hours

Tuesday – Saturday  
from 15 to 18 o'clock  
and by appointment

Irina Dora Magurean is an artist from Cluj, Romania 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.

For GARASC, Irina Dora Magurean presents *Everything to form under the sun*, a dialogue between photographic works from three projects the artist has been working on recently: *Stories never meant to be known* (2020 - ongoing), *Untitled form of light* (2014 - ongoing) and *Roenthgen Strahlung einer Fotografie* (2022).

*Stories never meant to be known* consists of a series of unique camera less photographs taken in a darkroom on silver gelatin paper. Created during the lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic, these images portray the difficult days and alienating atmosphere experienced by the artist and her family during those early weeks of isolation. Taken in her home, since her studio could not be reached, and in the evening after her children had gone to sleep, the photographs mix reality and fiction and tell a story of dreams and desires, of a past kept in personal memory and an uncertain future.

*Untitled form of light* is a Polaroid project, made only in sunlight, which started about 8 years ago. The sun is the counterpart to an intangible dialogue with the artist, who meticulously observes the way the light changes during the different hours of the day, creating ephemeral sculptures made of shapes, outlines and shimmers that are constantly changing. Photographing for Magurean thus becomes a ritual to be carefully followed that only takes place on sunny days. The photographs that arise from these observations are polaroids, a way of capturing the image that, compared to analogue photography with film or digital photography, cannot be replicated but consists only of unique specimens, just as unique is the moment in which the artist captures the light of a specific instant. The Polaroid in this sense has the capacity to record an occurrence of a ray of light on a sheet of paper, which is there now, but a moment later has already faded away.

Similarly, *Roenthgen Strahlung einer Fotografie* (2022) is also a study of sunlight, but with cyanotypes on wood that, like an X-ray, try to show what lies behind the visible of a photograph. In this project, the cyanotypes are created by direct exposure to sunlight and the image that is generated is a positive one, with the bright parts becoming dark and the shadows becoming light in the resulting image.

The selection of works presented in *Everything to form under the sun* stand in alternation technically and conceptually: the works in the darkroom were made in negative, just like a film shot by an analogue camera; the photographs taken in the sun are in positive and together tell of a coexistence of contrasts, between light and non-light, bright and dark, sun and shadow, luminous open spaces and sombre darkrooms. A dialogue and opposition that is a powerful metaphor: sunlight is good for someone, but can damage someone else.

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#### BIO

Irina Dora Magurean (Cluj, 1985) is an artist living and working in Cluj, Romania. Magurean holds a master's degree from the Department of Photography and a doctorate in Fine Arts from the University of Art and Design in Cluj. Her work has recently been exhibited at the Art Museum in Cluj-Napoca, Academie Royale de Beaux Arts in Brussels, New Now art space in Frankfurt, Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu and Museum of Water in Lisbon. She founded Camera (Cluj), an artist run space that promotes emerging artists working in the field of photography. She is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Art and Design in Cluj.

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GARASC is a project dedicated to talented and emerging artists who are encouraged to experiment and engage with the art gallery ecosystem through the production of site-specific work.