

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G presents a photography project by an international group of female artists:

## **Of Corse – Strong and naturally Staged bodies**

**Basel, December 08, 2022 – Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G is exploring a new genre for the institution and presenting its first photography exhibition. The project «of Corse», initiated, conceived and curated by the Swiss photographer Chantal Convertini, captures what nine artists achieved in a touching way during seven days in a remote house in Corsica: projecting themselves and their bodies in an intimate and natural way without anticipating the effect and opinion of the viewer. Only after the end of the joint photographic retreat did Chantal Convertini give her comrades-in-arms the opportunity to present the result of their encounter in an exhibition. The exhibition is on view from December 8, 2022 to February 12, 2023, at the Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger, and is presented in an exhibition catalog as an illustrated book of the journey.**

Naked bodies are omnipresent, the confrontation inevitable and yet, when shared by artists on social media, they are usually censored according to inscrutable and often seemingly nonsensical criteria. Nine young artists who are passionate about photography, especially self-portrait and thus with their own body and their own nudity and vulnerability, have connected online over this resistance and shared their work and experiences over the years. They entered into a virtual relationship with each other across national and language borders, supported and accompanied each other without ever having met each other physically.

### **Strong and natural – of Corse**

First there was the desire to rent a house by the sea to spend time with some friends and to devote time to photography. In this way, someone would always be available as a model, Chantal Convertini thought. But then she experienced a special kind of encounter with the house by the sea, which she also came across online. With the discovery of this magical place, a vision immediately arose. The vision right here, in the seclusion of Corsica, was to experiment with photography day and night with the artists with whom she had formed a trusting community on Instagram until then. Even before **Lena Aires, Mayara Scudeler, Charlotte Grimm, Catia Simões, Dafni Planta, Shannon Tomasik, Monika Jia Rui Scherer and Felicitas Schwenzer** had agreed, the house was rented, and Chantal Convertini was sure that something very special would be created in Corsica. *“The exhibition shows our photos not only as individual works of art. Rather, we want to take our visitors on our journey to Corsica, invite them into our space full of wild, vibrant energy and show them the trust, warmth, coziness and intimacy that was inherent in our being together”*, explains Chantal Convertini. The title "of Corse" is more than a play on words and a homage to the place where the basis for an exhibition was laid with hundreds of photographs. It stands for the strength and naturalness that characterizes these recordings.

### **Familiar and fearless – of Corse**

The result is intimate snapshots without a concept and of great naturalness: self-portraits, nudes, group and detail shots as well as landscapes. Powerful photographs of nine women who open themselves honestly, fearlessly and without shame to each other's contemplation. The bodies may not seem very diverse at first glance, but the nine women and the stories they tell are all the more so. You can feel that these recordings were not made for an audience, but for the group.

The aim of the nine artists was to make full use of the time and space that was available to them that week. For the nine photographers, their own nudity faded into the background over the course of the day: *"Just being in our group created a space in which nudity was not only absolutely beautiful, it was also funny and completely without shame; she was powerful without being sexy, she was trusting and completely free of fear"*, says Chantal Convertini, describing the collaboration and living together.

### **New paths and surprising twists – of Corse**

For the Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G is «of Corse» the first photography exhibition to present a new genre to the public. *"We hesitated to showcase such intimate and strong images, but ultimately it touches upon a very timely topic."* says Raphael Suter, Director of KBH.G. During another meeting of the nine artists in Tuscany in spring 2022, the group agreed to implement the project with KBH.G and made a first rough selection of the photos. *"Chantal Convertini coordinated the work on the exhibition and the catalogue. But all essential steps were discussed with Lena Aires, Charlotte Grimm, Dafni Planta, Monika Jia Rui Scherer, Felicitas Schwenzer, Mayara Scudeler, Catia Simões and Shannon Tomasik. This is how a real joint project came about, which we were happy to support and are now presenting in our exhibition rooms,"* says Raphael Suter, Director of KBH.G.

8 December 2022 – 12 February 2023

#### **of Corse**

#### **Photographs**

Daily (except Tuesday) 11am to 6pm

Catalog and admission are free

#### **Further information:**

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#### **About Chantal Convertini**

Chantal Convertini, born in 1992 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, is an artist and photographer. With a great passion for film photography, she mostly points her camera at herself. Of all the opportunities her profession offers, analogue photography is her favorite. In her work, she combines documenting and capturing real moments, emotions, poses and situations with skillful staging and keen introspection to create self-portraits and other photographic formats. Chantal divides her time between projects, workshops, exhibitions, photo shoots and personal work. Her photos have been exhibited in galleries in Paris and New York and she published her first photo book, *Permeable Membrane*, in 2020.

[paeulini.com](http://paeulini.com) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Patreon](#)

#### **About Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G**

The Basel H. Geiger | Cultural Foundation was founded KBH.G 2019 by the philanthropist Sibylle Geiger (1930-2020), who named the foundation after her grandfather, the Swiss pharmacist and entrepreneur Hermann Geiger (1870 - 1962). The foundation has the aim to provide a new type of forum for art and culture for the city of Basel and its residents and visitors. All activities of the Basel H. Geiger Cultural Foundation aim to add a new topic to the rich cultural offerings of the city of Basel. The foundation plans to carry out two to three artistically independent exhibition projects each year; Admission and the accompanying catalogue are both free of charge.

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