

SWEETWATER,

The hill is getting lower. Or so it seems.

Helene Appel, Tolia Astakhishvili, Florence Carr, Jef Geys, Lenard Giller, Marina Grize, Pati Hill, Sofia Defino Leiby, Stephen Lichty, Devin T. Mays, Megan Plunkett, Tobias Hohn & Stanton Taylor, Constantin Thun, Bill Walton, Marina Xenofontos
February 1, 2024 – March 23, 2024

There is a particular feeling that can strike abruptly upon returning to a place long after the last visit, or upon rediscovering a possession tucked away for years: a sort of overwhelming realization that things are not (were never?) quite as they once seemed. The magnificent theater of your memories is just a small auditorium with terrible acoustics; the endlessly long table you remember is perfectly normal; the fabrics which had seemed so luxurious are, in fact, just like any other clothes. Mistrust and doubt (this can't be it!) give way to understanding: things imposing, things wonderful, things strange become comfortable and regular, aging their way into some newfound authenticity. Nevertheless, objects and memories, collected and gathered for one reason, are kept for another.

Scrawled in an old notebook of Bill Walton's is this phrase, *the hill is getting lower*, without any further elaboration. Perhaps the slope eases temporarily, perhaps climbing is simply becoming less taxing with time, or maybe the land really has just eroded, bringing the summit ever closer. But, as Walton noted in a small addendum on the next line, there's also the possibility (the concession?) that, for all you know, that may not be the case: *or so it seems*.

SWEETWATER,

The hill is getting lower. Or so it seems.

Helene Appel, Tolia Astakhishvili, Florence Carr, Jef Geys, Lenard Giller, Marina Grize, Pati Hill, Sofia Defino Leiby, Stephen Lichty, Devin T. Mays, Megan Plunkett, Tobias Hohn & Stanton Taylor, Constantin Thun, Bill Walton, Marina Xenofontos
February 1, 2024 – March 23, 2024

Helene Appel (*1976, DE) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Prenton (2023); Touchstones, Rochdale (2023); and Städtische Galerie Delmenhorst, Delmenhorst (2022).

Tolia Astakashvili (*1974, GE) lives and works in Berlin. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include SculptureCenter, New York (2024); Haus am Waldsee, Berlin (2023); Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2023); and Kunstverein Bielefeld, Bielefeld (2023).

Florence Carr (*1997, UK) lives and works in London. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include 12.26, Los Angeles (2024) and Petrine, Paris (2023). Her work was also recently exhibited in a group exhibition at Galerie Molitor, Berlin (2023).

Jef Geys (*1934, BE; †2018, BE) lived and worked in Balen. Currently on view at WIELS, Brussels is a major retrospective of Geys's work. Recent institutional exhibitions include Z33, Hasselt (2024); Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2021); Bergen Kunsthalle, Bergen (2021). In 2009, Geys represented Belgium at the 53rd Venice Biennale. His work was included in documenta 11 in 2007, Skulptur Projekte Münster in 1997, and the 21st Bienal de São Paulo in 1991.

Lenard Giller (*1997, DE) lives and works in Rome. Recent solo exhibitions include The Shop at Sadie Coles HQ, London (2023) and Petrine, Paris (2022). His work has also been exhibited in group exhibitions at Akwa Ibom, Athens (2023) and Ermes Ermes, Rome (2023).

Marina Grize (*1987, US) lives and works in San Diego. Grize's work has been included in exhibitions at the Athenaeum, San Diego (2023) and the ICA SD, San Diego (2017), among others.

Pati Hill (*1921, US; †2014, FR) lived and worked outside New York and Paris. Recent solo exhibitions of her work include Printed Matter, New York (2023); Kunsthalle Zürich (2020); and Kunstverein München (2020).

Sofia Defino Leiby (*1989, US) lives and works in Berlin. In June 2024, she will present her second solo exhibition at Sweetwater; recent solo and two-person exhibitions include Mala, Lisbon (2024); Sweetwater, Berlin (2021); γλη [matter] HYLE, Athens (2018). She has also been included in group exhibitions at Sophie Tappeiner, Vienna (2023); Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich (2022); and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2021).

Stephen Lichty (*1983, US) lives and works in San Francisco. Recent solo exhibitions include Foxy Production, New York (2021); Veda, Florence (2020); and Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR (2019). Lichty has also performed at House of Seiko, San Francisco (2023) and The Noguchi Museum, New York (2015), among others.

Devin T. Mays (*1985, US) lives and works in Galveston. Recent solo and group exhibitions include SculptureCenter, New York (2023); Wedge Projects, Chicago (2022); and Regards, Chicago (2021). His work has also been included in group exhibitions at the DePaul Art Museum, Chicago (2023) and the MCA Chicago (2022, 2020).

Megan Plunkett (*1985, US), lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent solo exhibitions include F, Houston (2023); Sweetwater, Berlin (2022); and Emalin, London (2021). Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at Shivers Only, Paris (2023); Park View / Paul Soto, Los Angeles (2022); The Wig, Berlin (2022); Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2022); and MOSTYN, Llandudno (2022).

Tobias Hohn (*1991, DE) and Stanton Taylor (*1990, TT) have been working together as an artistic duo since 2014 and are based in Düsseldorf and Berlin, respectively. They were the 2017 recipients of the Peter Mertes Stipendium, and have presented solo exhibitions at the Bonner Kunstverein (2017); Galerie Max Mayer, Düsseldorf (2018); Salon Roberta, Cologne (2023); and Alte Tankstelle Deutz, Cologne (2023).

Constantin Thun lives and works in Berlin and New York. In April 2024, he will have his second solo exhibition at Sweetwater, and also be included in a two-person exhibition at the Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson. Thun's work has recently been exhibited at Sweetwater, Berlin (2022); the haubrok foundation, Berlin (2021), and Galleria Fonti, Naples (2021), among others.

Bill Walton (*1931, US; †2010, US) lived and worked in Philadelphia. Recent solo exhibitions of his work include Sweetwater, Berlin (2023); JTT, New York (2022); Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia (2021); Frith Street, London (2018); and ICA Philadelphia, Philadelphia (2011).

Marina Xenofontos (*1988, CY) lives and works in Athens. Recent solo and group exhibitions include Camden Arts Centre, London (2023); SculptureCenter, New York (2023); Hot Wheels, Athens (2023); Ermes Ermes, Rome (2023); Akwa Ibom, Athens (2022). Later this year, Xenofontos will have a solo exhibition at the Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg (2024).