

# BEACONSFIELD

a streamlined resource for the development and presentation of contemporary art

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Monika Oechsler, *Sometimes I Dream*, video still, 2021. Beaconsfield online

## **Monika Oechsler**

### ***Sometimes I Dream***

HD video loop and sound, 2021

Sequence duration: 3.25 min.

Beaconsfield Online from 29 January 2021

Best viewed using audio headphones, **Monika Oechsler's** exploration of bunker mentality makes uncanny audiovisual reference to the current pandemic in this second commission in the series **Beacon\_Transitions**: a lockdown experiment wherein a virtual portal is opened by Beaconsfield for artists to explore, supported by Art Council England's Emergency Response Fund.

**Please view here: <https://beaconsfield.ltd.uk/projects/sometimes-i-dream/>**

***Sometimes I Dream*** is an animated short film by Monika Oechsler that touches upon the fragility of body and mind. Inspired by Franz Kafka's unfinished short story *The*

Burrow, the film creates an analogy between bunker building mentality and the fear of an unknown enemy invading the bunker. Sometimes I Dream leads the viewer on a tour through the interior of an actual bunker of monumental proportions. The animation reconfigures the bunker as an immersive and experiential environment that becomes synonymous with the body and at the same time playfully references Virtual Reality games.

The Pallas High Bunker, constructed in Berlin during WWII using forced Soviet labour, was originally intended to serve as a telecommunications office. The building was reconfigured into a civil protection bunker in the late 80s, with the capacity to shelter 4,800 people. In recent times, bunkers left over from both WWII and the Cold War era have become desirable real estate for wealthy clients.

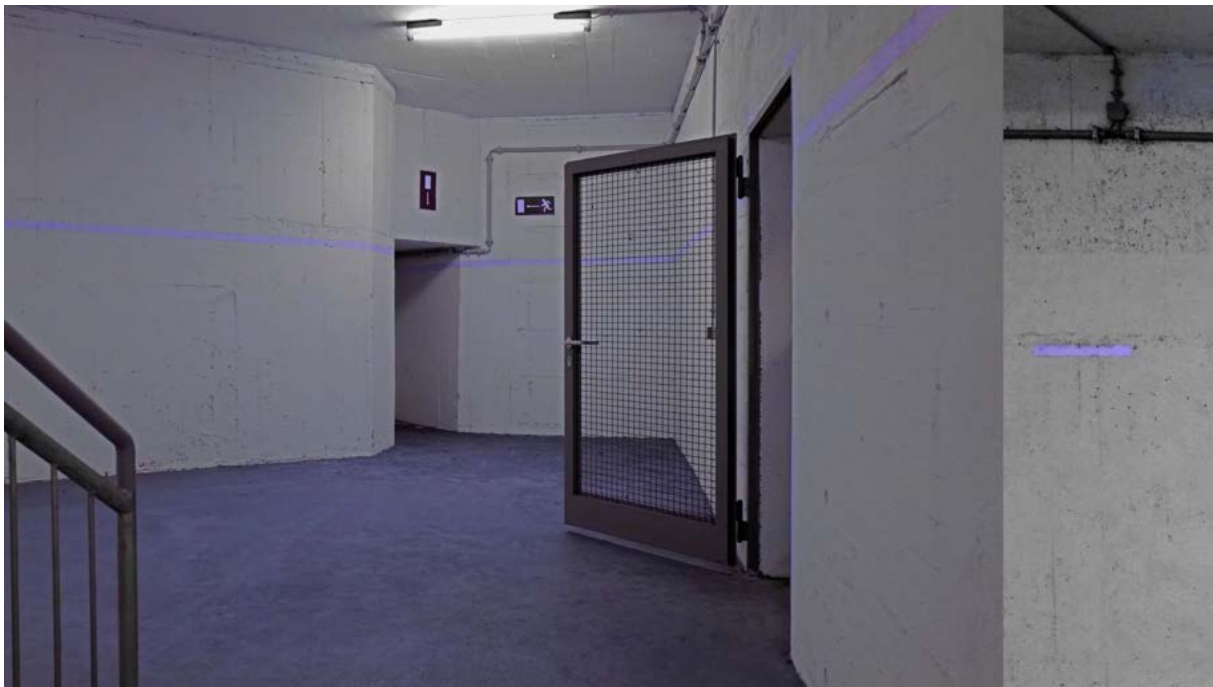
Commissioned by Beaconsfield, London

Photography: Monika Oechsler, Pallas Hochbunker, Berlin, Germany

Voice narration: David Crawforth

Script based on The Burrow by Franz Kafka

Animation and sound edit: Monika Oechsler



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## ABOUT BEACON\_TRANSITIONS

(B\_T) is an online series in response to the uncertain future of exhibition culture. Beaconsfield invites artists to hold the space between physical and virtual sites in a new series of experimental commissions: 'Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of the mind.'

(Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, 1928)

## NOTES FOR EDITORS:

**Monika Oechsler** is a London-based artist whose work includes artists' film, sound and multi-screen and multi-media installations including photography and performance. She explores material culture and socio-cultural roles through performative action and site-specific interventions with a focus on gender, cultural identity, memory and place. Recent works in particular highlight the ideological aspects of iconic architecture, historical monuments and post-industrial sites through the exploration of their contemporary situatedness.

Oechsler has exhibited extensively in the UK and internationally most notably, at Tate Modern London and Tate Liverpool, MOMA, New York, ZKM Museum for Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, NGBK, Berlin, Kunstmuseum Lichtenstein, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Landesgalerie Linz, Steirischer Herbst, Landesmuseum, Graz, Kunstverein Bregenz, Sharjah International Biennial, UAE, Artissima, Turin, Kunsthalle Budapest, Kunsthalle Bergen, AVE Arnhem, Yokohama Triennale, Japan and Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki. Her work is held in public and private collections.

She is Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England, Bristol. She studied at Goldsmith College University of London and received a PhD from the University of Brighton and the University of the Creative Arts UCA.



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