

“MASS DEFORMATION“ is the name of the exhibition by the multidisciplinary artists *Ruchi Bajaj* and **Jasmin Selen Heinz** from Vienna. The exhibition at Club International at Yppenplatz from 16.5.-16.6.2022 displays a selection of paintings, drawings and photographs. With emotionally charged character portraits the artists explore the body as a meeting point of the inner and outside world. Experiences and influences are expressed through the body – how we present, treat and intervene with it. **“MASS DEFORMATION“** questions habitual forms of appearance, takes a look at the unattractive, grotesque and incomplete and unites opposites and contradictions through surreal, caricature-esque drawings. Through estrangement of colours and body mass, they associate and dissociate constructs and try to identify humans and feelings for what they are, what they radiate and present them as such. After the Vedic analogy *“Tat tvam asi”* – *“That is you”*: everything resembling your personality manifests in your environment. Everything you feel, taste, occupy or surround yourself with, that is you. The relationship of the human with character defining daily objects melts together in their drawings and portrait photography of market merchants. The tomato farmer resembles a tomato, the fish merchant resembles a fish – and so they underline that your occupation, what you do, defines and shapes you. Through the influence and incorporation of one’s environment, the body deforms, imbalance is created. When a state of harmony is reached, inner and outside world convene. **“MASS DEFORMATION“** explores this convergence by looking at the transformation process and the uniqueness of individuality. The artists reflect on their subjectivity by grappling with the default and/or the unaesthetic. They question the significance of beauty in a time where individuality is more and more encouraged and diversity plays an important role in society.

In a dance performance at the opening **Jasmin Selen Heinz** and dancer **Lorenzo Vayssière aka “Sweet”** will create a meeting point of the inner and outside world through movement in the context of their environment. The duo will manifest the idea behind the exhibition through a reactive dance performance, exploring their connection with each other and the convergence of their inner world and the environment in regard to their individual transformation process. Coming from different backgrounds in dance, rather than dancing a specific style, the artists are looking to meet through movement influenced by their lives and the way they move through it. While Selen has moved from ballet over jazz dance, hip hop and contemporary to ballroom and Latin American dance, she is now coming back to merge these influences after a long break. Even though it is not her main discipline she sees it as part of her diversity and sensibility as an artist. *“Sweet”* on the other hand, grew up with breaking culture, which he practiced for more than ten years before also moving through hip hop, popping, locking, house, krump, jazz rock and a bit of contemporary and ballet, all inspiring to shape his own style. Now he lives and works as a professional dancer all over Europe, based in Geneva. By playing with the idea of no form, shaping new forms, the dancers are not trying to dress their movement in a certain way, rather trying to undress it, not in favour of the aesthetic, but rather the translation of raw feelings through movement. Lead by the idea behind *“elan vitale”* – being as spontaneous as possible and letting life gush out in movement, they will express their lived experiences and influences through the body.