

CV

Lean Rüegg (they/them/no pronouns)

Born 09.03.1992 in Zürich,

Lives and works in Basel and Zürich.

They studied at the Institute Art Gender Natur Basel (2013–2016) and at the Dutch Art Institute Arnhem (NL, 2018–2020).

Lean's artistic practice is centered around storytelling.

They explore and engage with somatic forms of language such as poetry, song, prayer, and spells, investigating their reality creating potential.

For Lean, sharing intimacy and embodied knowledge is a form of political resistance.

Lean's process is a form of performative writing.

Autobiographical observations of everyday life and the experience of „being in relation“ flow into both text and visual language.

In their work, the boundaries between subject and object are often blurred in an animistic sense. These texts sediment in space, intertwining audio works, performance, and objects.

Lean's work has been shown at the Kunsthalle Basel, HEK Basel, Hamlet in Zurich, Amore Basel, and the Cité des Arts in Paris and also has won several awards such as the Swiss Performance Award.

Website Lean Rüegg:

<https://www.leanruegg.net/>



EDUCATION

2018-2020	Master of Fine Arts, Dutch Art Institute, Roaming Academy, Arnhem
2013-2016	Bachelor of Fine Arts, Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Basel
2011-2012	Vorkurs, F&F Schule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Zürich

AWARDS

2025	Werkbeitrag 2025 des Kanton Zürich
2024	Swiss Performance Award, Audience Award
2023	Projektbeitrag 2023, Kunstkredit Basel Stadt
2021	Werkbeitrag 2021, Kunstkredit Basel Stadt
2016	STAR UP AWARD of the Institut Kunst, Basel, for the work „Wir über Kunst“ in collaboration with Raphaela Grolimund

RESIDENCIES

2025	Summer School „writing as artistic practice“ by Texte Zum Nachdenken, Halle für Kunst Lüneburg
2025	Performing Arts Forum, Saint-Erme-Outre-et-Ramecourt, France, on site organiser jan&feb
2024	Cite internationale des Arts, Atelier Mondial, Paris, France
2023	Chasa Torel, Guarda, Graubünden, Switzerland
2017	Artist Residency, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, A Coruña, Spain
2016	Art Camp Zemo Nikosi, ArtAsFoundation, Zemo Nikosi, Georgia

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2017-2019	Bikini, Offspace, Basel www.bikini-space.ch
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TEACHING/WORKSHOPS

2026	Workshop on „collective writing processes“, at Performance Festival Giswil
2026	Workshop on „Kunst & Inszenierung“ at F&F, Zürich
2025	Jurymember at F&F graduation show, Zürich
2023	Feedback Sessions, Performance Festival Giswil
2022	Guest Artist, Feedback Sessions, Act Jubiläum, Biel

PERFORMING FOR OTHERS (selection)

2023	marce norbet hörler, hecatean lines, Vor dem Berge Gildewart Stipendium, Kunstmuseum Appenzell
	Benedikt Bock, Publication Release Zeitsparkasse, Kunstraum Riehen
	Vlatko Kultzen, Schlecht besuchte Theater, Zhdk Master Theater
2021	Sarina Scheidegger, Collaborating Waters, Swiss Art Awards
	Harun Morrison, Not Standing in Place, Theater Spektakel Zürich

SOLO/DUO SHOWS

- 2024 the sunflower in our garden grew as tall as a tree,
with the rubbles of old places, Berlin
- Lick my shoe, digest my blue, Amore, Basel
- 2023 muddy fade (hum), Sic! Elephanthouse, Luzern
- 2021 Cherrystone Archive, Rezgauche, Brussels
- 2019 holding hands from afar, Bebe Books, Ghent, Belgium
- leave a message after the.. just want be alone in a room with wifi,
Pleasure Zone, Basel
- 2017 Bikini Welcomes You, Bikini, Basel
- 2016 Die Bande Performing The White Cube Hotel,
Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Basel

GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2025 Werkschau 25, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur
- Readings by Summer School Participants, Texte zum Nachdenken,
Kemmlerfundation, Berlin
- Ui..Non!Oui:NN - Union, Projektraum 54, Basel
- 2024 Mental Door, Kasko, Basel
- Swiss Performance Award, Gessnerallee Zürich
- Atelier Ouvert curated by Centre Culturele Suisse, Paris
- Long Distance, Hamlet, Zürich
- 2023 Summer of Something, Kunsthau Zürich, Zürich
- 2022 We are so many here, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel

- 2022 Cat's Cradle, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel
- Bang Bang, Museum Tinguely, Basel
- I Hear A New World, Fondation Beyeler, Basel
- 2021 Sensual Havoc, Subbacultcha, Amsterdam
- Die Raum, Sandgrube, Basel
- Closed Circuit, Dock, Basel
- mossy wet old, Voicemail Project, Brussels
- 2020 Corona Kino, Institut Kunst, Basel
- Expanded Video Works, Hek, Basel
- SOLO SHOW, Chapter 6, The love and hate of dreams, Online
- „Bend it“ Gradacts, Dutch Art Institute, Radio Kootwijk, Netherlands
- Kunstgeburtag, E-Werk, Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany
- 2019 Materialisations, National Museum, Deuxpiece, Berlin, Germany
- Sans ce draps, je serais invisible, Urgent Paradise, Lausanne
- holding hands from afar, Bebe Books, Ghent, Belgium
- 2018 Exposición Residencias, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, A Coruña, Spain
- New Swiss Performance Now, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel
- 2017 Bikini Welcomes You, Bikini, Basel
- Perro y garrapata, La Nautilus, A Coruña, Spain
- 2016 Every Contact Leaves A Trace, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel
- Summe 16, Deuxpiece at Carrosserie, Basel
- 2015 Performancereihe Neu-Oerlikon 2015, Wahlenpark, Zürich