

ALEXANDRA PIRICI

CO-NATURAL

Alexandra Pirici (b. 1982, Bucharest, Romania) uses sculpture, performance, and choreography to address symbolic manifestations of history through frameworks that define bodily presence in both real and virtual space.

Pirici's new work, *Co-natural* (2018), is an ongoing action with live performers and a holographic image. The work considers the increasing fragmentation of presence and self, enabled by digital technologies, financialization, and, more broadly, by modernity's division of nature from culture, body from mind or spirit, and individual from collective. *Co-natural* attempts to enact a dispersion of bodily presence, commenting on contemporary processes of abstraction that separate sign from substance and image from material support. Yet the work also mines this fragmentation for its potential to create a different idea of the self, one distributed across time, space, bodies, history, and memory.

This new work, conceived especially for the New Museum's South Galleries, continues Pirici's recent interrogations of the collective body through choreography that links different temporal and spatial events in real time. Exploring memorials and monuments; artworks and objects in museum collections, lost, or stored in freeports; as well as abstractions of the living subject into quantifiable, monetizable data—through physical bodies, voice, and ghostly images—the work resituates them in new relations and entanglements. Pirici contextualizes the hologram, a fragment of a “whole,” through live action; the hologram becomes a mediator of presence, revealing the ways in which images and

living bodies influence each other. *Co-natural* proposes a single, modular organism made of both living and digital matter that gradually assembles and disperses again over the course of each day of the exhibition.

“Alexandra Pirici: Co-natural” is curated by Helga Christoffersen, Associate Curator.

Co-natural is performed by Juli Brandano, Farid Fairuz, Paula Gherghe, Miguel Angel Guzmán, Jordan Isadore, and Jennifer Tchiakpe.

Light, set, and holographic display design: Andrei Dinu

Holographic Pepper's Ghost display: Archi3D LIMITED

Director of photography: Barbu BalasoIU

“Alexandra Pirici: Co-natural” was made possible through the generous lead support of the European ArtEast Foundation and Art Encounters.



This project is made possible with support provided by the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund and the Artemis Council of the New Museum.

The exhibition is realized in collaboration with the Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels.

Additional support is provided by the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York.

Special thanks to CINETic and the National Dance Center Bucharest.