

## **ELMA RIZA & PETRA GELL**

### **How to make a bee-line**

**15/06 – 01/08/2020**

**curated by Christine Bruckbauer**

**Opening: Thursday, June 25, 2020, 7 pm**

**with a performance by Elma Riza, 8 pm**

**philomena+ project room, Heinestraße 40, 1020 Vienna**

The residency and exhibition project *How to make a bee-line* tests the artistic and interpersonal approach of two artists unfamiliar with each other: **Elma Riza & Petra Gell**. What both artists have in common is their desire to make the different layers of a place visible through artistic interaction, to expose historical events, but also to create new spaces that do not necessarily have a function, free and open spaces for encounters and experiments with visitors and curious passers-by.

By means of Performance and Instant Composition, the Franco-Tunisian artist **Elma Riza** explores the relationship between body and space, focusing in particular on the tension between the visible and the invisible, the real and the imaginary. Like Elma Riza, the Viennese artist **Petra Gell** also creates spatial guidelines. In Elma Riza's work it is often the movement of her own performing body that she marks with wool thread or tape. Petra Gell, on the other hand, draws lines that define relations between things and new spaces, using pencil, brush, monochrome and painted surfaces, as well as found materials. An eminent oscillation between two- and three-dimensionality lies in the resulting interventions, which in turn creates spatial illusion.

**ELMA RIZA** is a Franco-Tunisian artist, born in France in 1986, who has lived and worked in Berlin since 2007 in the field of visual arts and performance. Graduated from the Berlin School of Fine Arts - KHB in 2012. By means of Performance and Instant Composition, Elma Riza explores the relationship between body and space, focusing in particular on the tension between the visible and the invisible, the real and the imaginary.

**PETRA GELL** is an Austrian artist, born in Linz in 1976. Since 2001 she has participated in international exhibitions and curatorial activities with the artists' collective "Die 4 Grazien". Graduated in Painting and Graphics from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in 2006, Petra Gell's installation work explores, in the era of fake news and virtual reality, the durability of the material and the meaning of objet trouvés in the real exhibition space.