

LTR: **Lukas Truniger**, *An Automated Self*, 2023, courtesy of the artist; **Isabell Bullerschen**, *ipseria (cave of intelligent slime)*, 2022, courtesy of the artist; **Rhona Mühlebach**, *Ditch Me*, 2023, courtesy of the artist.

# Lukas Truniger, Isabell Bullerschen, Rhona Mühlebach

Swiss Media Art – Pax Art Awards 2025

14.02.-19.04.2026

**Opening: Friday, 13.02.2026**

11:00: Press tour with the curator and artists

19:00: Vernissage

The exhibition presents new works by the winners of the Pax Art Awards 2025 in three concurrent solo exhibitions. The main prize was awarded to Lukas Truniger, with additional prizes going to Isabell Bullerschen and Rhona Mühlebach.

The exhibition brings together three distinct artistic positions. Lukas Truniger looks at how ideas of human superiority are built into digital infrastructures. Isabell Bullerschen works with image archives that are altered through biological processes. In a new work, Rhona Mühlebach explores the self-preservation fantasy of a snail. Together, the three exhibitions invite visitors to reflect on different aspects of a present shaped by technology.

**Curator:** Marlene Wenger

## Lukas Truniger

Truniger's artistic practice is shaped by his background in music and sound art, as well as by traditions of generative and media art. He designs systems based on clearly defined rules, then steps back to allow them to unfold on their own. The processes are left to run, develop, and transform autonomously.

In this exhibition, Truniger presents a new three-part body of work that holds up an unflinching mirror to the present. The works imitate a speculative infrastructure made up of the artefacts of digital excess and obsolescence. They point to a form of human hubris driven by today's desire to calculate, control, and predict. Truniger describes this condition as the «programmed self»: a way of understanding ourselves that is shaped and guided through continuous interaction with algorithms.

The Pax Art Awards jury was deeply impressed by the clarity and consistency with which Truniger conveys both the poetic and political dimensions of his work. His exploration of the entanglement between the artificial and the natural speaks directly to the complexities of contemporary life. This award recognises not only the strength and coherence of his artistic practice to date, but also the vital role of media art in helping us navigate and better understand the complex systems that shape our world.

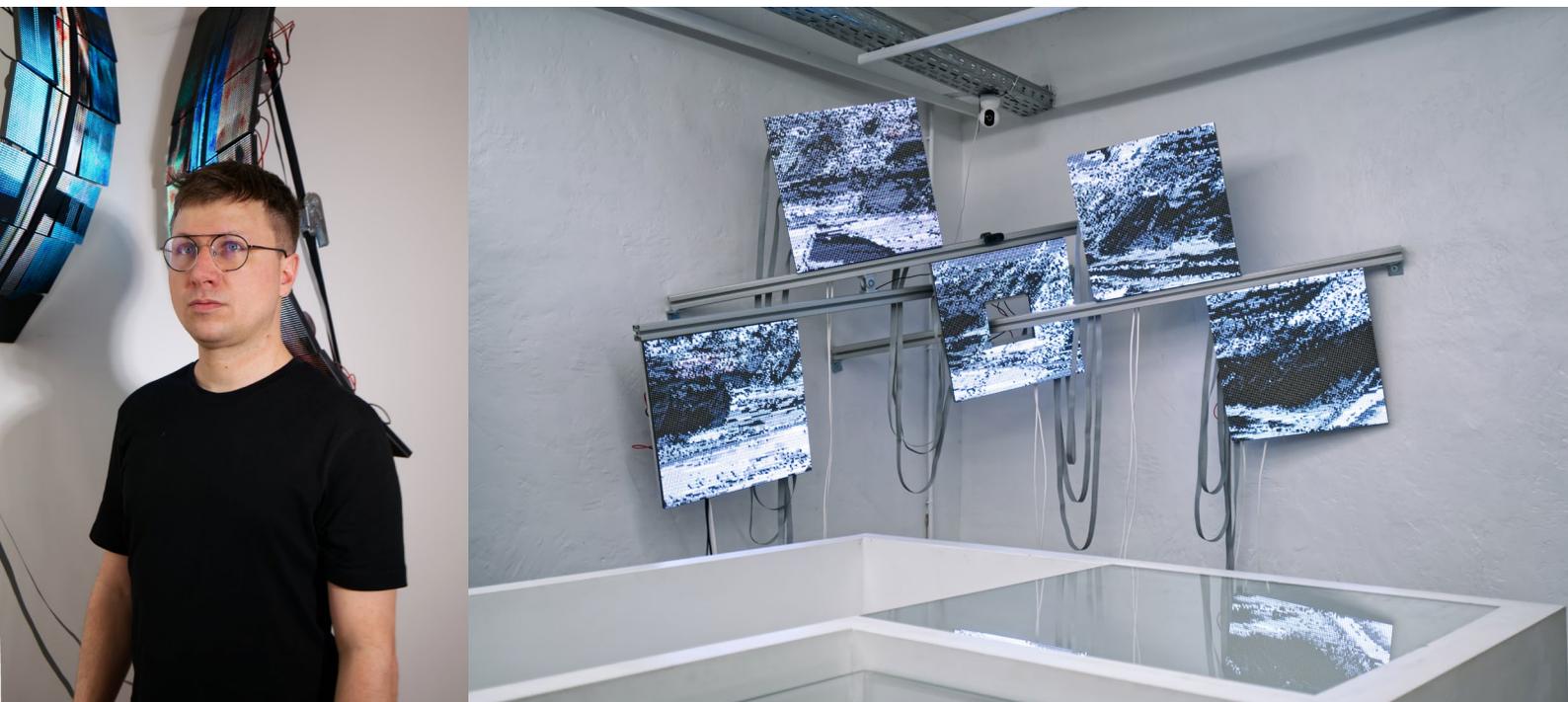
Lukas Truniger (born 1986 in Zurich) lives and works in Paris. He studied music at the Robert Schumann Hochschule for Music and Media in Düsseldorf, graduating in 2013, and completed a postgraduate diploma in Fine Art at Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains in Tourcoing in 2015. Since 2016, his work has been presented internationally at institutions and festivals including Sónar+D (Barcelona, 2025), Nuit Blanche (Paris, 2024), West Kowloon Cultural District (Hong Kong, 2023), HEK (Basel, 2023), Ars Electronica (Linz, 2020), Burning Man (Nevada, 2018), Fondation Vasarely (Aix-en-Provence, 2017), the International Digital Arts Biennial (BIAN) in Montreal (2016), and the International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA) in Paris and Hong Kong (2016 and 2023). Truniger has received several awards and grants, including the Lumen Prize 2024, as well as support from the European Media Art Platform (EMAP), DRAC Hauts-de-France, Pro Helvetia, and the Dispositif pour la Création Artistique Multimédia et Numérique (DICRéAM/CNC). He has also taken part in residency programmes in Gijón, Rotterdam, Quebec, and Paris.

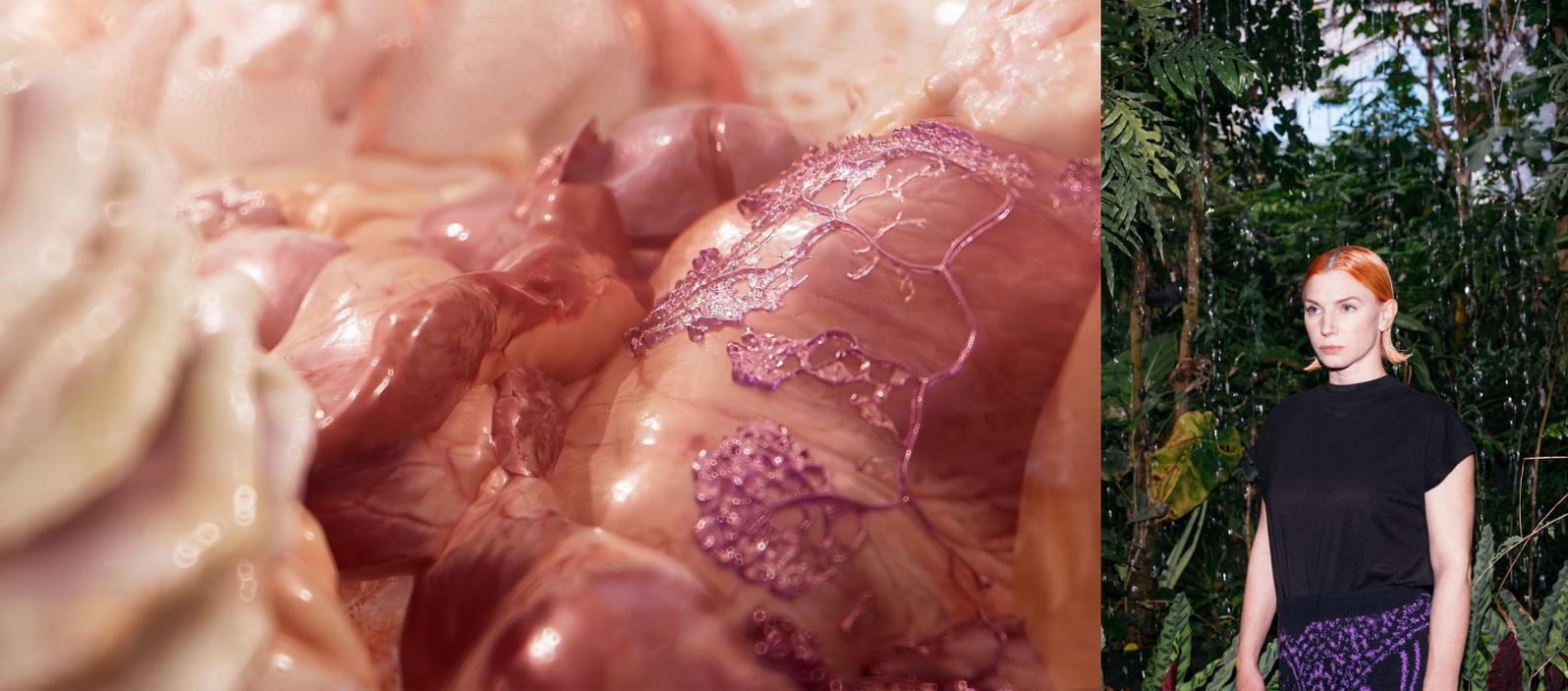
### Lukas Truniger received the main prize of the Pax Art Awards 2025, worth CHF 30,000

**Website:** <https://lukastruniger.net/>

**Instagram:** @lukas.truniger

LTR: **Lukas Truniger**, *Self Portrait*; **Lukas Truniger**, *Lost in rasterized Translation*, 2025, Hamcus showroom, Paris (F), courtesy of the artist.





LTR: **Isabell Bullerschen**, *ipseria (cave of intelligent slime)*, 2022, courtesy of the artist; **Isabell Bullerschen**, *Portrait*, Photo: Philip Frowein.

## Isabell Bullerschen

Isabell Bullerschen works with fluid ideas of posthuman embodiment, intelligence, and identity. She questions and loosens established categories of thought, moving away from an anthropocentric perspective toward speculative forms of narration. Her immersive mixed-media installations are conceived to operate both in physical space and within digital environments.

Slime has been a recurring motif in Bullerschen's work for some time. Here, it functions not only as a biological substance, but also as a flexible metaphor for connection and transformation. Her new series of wall installations, *Metabolic Portals* (2026), focuses on metabolic processes and natural cycles of matter.

The works are based on collages drawn from Bullerschen's image archive. Bullerschen describes the AI-based process as a form of «metabolism»: the images are analysed, broken down, and recomposed, while their underlying structure remains intact. This hybrid aesthetic, positioned between photography and digital rendering, reflects the law of conservation: nothing disappears into nothingness; every atom is part of a cyclical process unfolding over billions of years. Bullerschen describes this condition as a «phlegmal form of existence». Through this approach, she draws a critical parallel between biological ecosystems and technological data flows. The works appear as physical objects printed behind acrylic glass or on aluminium Dibond, some of them backlit or combined with fluorescent tubes. They raise questions about authorship and the «soul» of technical images. Visually, the installations sit between fascination and discomfort, beauty and repulsion — reflecting Bullerschen's ambivalent relationship with artificial intelligence.

Isabell Bullerschen convinced the jury through the way she translates her posthumanist ideas into opulent displays that not only help us understand the overlap between the digital and the corporeal, but allow us to experience it sensorially.

Isabell Bullerschen (born 1985) lives and works in Zurich. She completed a Bachelor's degree in Social and Economic Communication at the Berlin University of the Arts in 2014, followed by a Master of Fine Arts at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), which she completed in 2017. Her work has been shown in major exhibitions in Switzerland and internationally, including at Galerie We Are AIA in Zurich (2023), Stiftung Binz39 in Zurich (2021), and as part of the exhibition *Night Pieces: A Foreign Body Within* at the Three Shadows Xiamen Photography Art Centre in China (2024). Bullerschen has received several awards and grants, including work grants from the Canton of Zurich in 2022 and 2023, the Förderpreis of the UBS Culture Foundation in 2022, and a work grant from Pro Helvetia in 2021.

**Isabell Bullerschen received one of the Pax Art Awards 2025 for emerging artists, worth CHF 15,000.**

**Website:** <https://www.isabellbullerschen.com/>

**Instagram:** @oscar\_bella\_pain

## Rhona Mühlebach

Rhona Mühlebach's installations create idiosyncratic worlds in which memory and imagination become difficult to separate. Her works are populated by figures such as Neanderthals, wild boar, or slime moulds, which comment on civilisation or appear as creative, world-shaping beings. Reality becomes flexible, language malleable, and failure — both human and narrative — becomes a driving force for insight. In each image, Mühlebach explores the relationship between reality and fiction. These shifts in perspective run through the entire body of work of the artist, who was born in Thurgau and now lives in Vienna. History is treated as a timeless material, animals take on the role of protagonists, and humour becomes a method of gaining knowledge.

Her narratives resist linear time and unfold along poetic paths in which language, music, and technology are closely intertwined. In her latest work, the story centres on a snail that wants to turn to stone in order to wait for better times — without becoming a fossil. Between grand ambition and avoidance, a fantasy of self-preservation emerges and breaks apart into many voices and fragments. In the exhibition space, this work takes the form of a sensorial environment of snail slime, through which visitors can listen to this unusual story.

The jury recognised Rhona Mühlebach for her distinctive, thoughtful, and experimental practice, which combines audiovisual innovation with narrative boldness.

Rhona Mühlebach (born 1990) was born in Thurgau and works in Vienna. She studied film at the École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL) and fine art at the Glasgow School of Art. Her work has been shown in exhibitions including Museo Municipal de Guayaquil (2026), Kunsthaus Glarus (2024), CCA Glasgow (2023), Kunstraum Kreuzlingen (2021), and the Swiss Art Awards (2021 and 2024). Her films have also been screened at international film festivals such as the Glasgow Short Film Festival (2023), Locarno Film Festival (2014), IndieLisboa, and the Busan International Film Festival (2015). Mühlebach received the Adolf Dietrich Förderpreis in 2021, as well as individual grants from the Canton of Thurgau in 2020 and 2025.

**Rhona Mühlebach received one of the Pax Art Awards 2025 for emerging artists, worth CHF 15,000.**

**Website:** <https://rhonamuehlebach.com/>

**Instagram:** @rhona\_muehlebach

LTR: **Rhona Mühlebach**, *Portrait*, Photo: Ralph Ribí; **Rhona Mühlebach**, *Ditch Me*, 2023, video still.



## Pax Art Awards | Art Foundation Pax

The Pax Art Awards have been awarded annually since 2018. These pioneering prizes for digital art are presented by the Art Foundation Pax in collaboration with HEK. They recognise and support media-specific practices by Swiss artists who work with media technologies or critically reflect on their impact. Half of the prize money is used to acquire a work for the Art Foundation Pax collection, while the other half supports the artists in developing a new work. This new work is presented in a joint exhibition the following year.

The Art Foundation Pax is an independent foundation dedicated to the promotion of digital and media-based art in Switzerland. It is an initiative of Pax, a cooperative-based pension insurance provider.



**Website:** <https://www.artfoundationpax.ch/>

**Instagram:** @artfoundationpax

### Information:

HEK (House of Electronic Arts)  
Freilager-Platz 9, 4142 Münchenstein/Basel

### Opening Hours:

Wed & Fri, 12:00–18:00

Thu, 12:00–20:00

Sat & Sun, 12:00–17:00

Entry: 12 / 8 CHF (reduced)

Happy Hour: Wed-Fri 12:00–13:00, free exhibition entry

Guided Tours: every Sunday at 15:00

For more information: [www.hek.ch](http://www.hek.ch)

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### About HEK (House of Electronic Arts)

Das HEK in Basel ist gleichzeitig ein Museum und das nationale Kompetenzzentrum der Schweiz für digitale Kunst. Es befasst sich mit allen Kunstformen, die sich durch neue Technologien und Medien ausdrücken und diese reflektieren. In seinem interdisziplinären Programm mit Ausstellungen, Performances und Vermittlungsangeboten widmet sich das HEK aktuellen gesellschaftlichen Themen und Fragestellungen. Es richtet sich so an ein breites Publikum und gibt diesem Einblick in Kunstproduktionen unterschiedlicher Gattungen. Es setzt sich für den Erhalt von Schweizer Medienkunst ein, indem es Werke für seine Sammlung ankauft, erschliesst, konservatorisch betreut und vermittelt.

### HEK is supported by:

  
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