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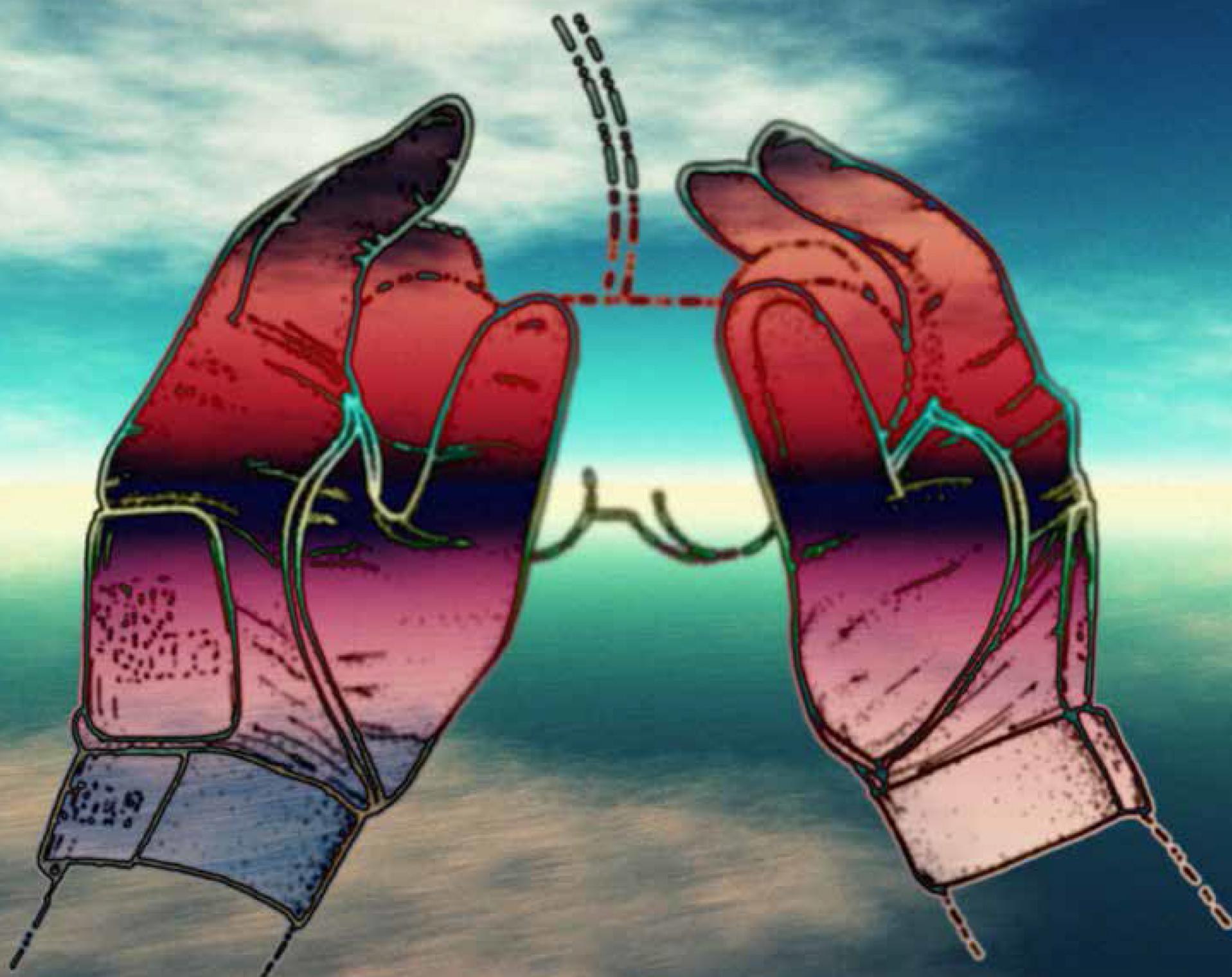
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art  
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SELECTIONS

Jon Rafman, *I dig, you dig, and it, the worm, digs too*, 2014. Image courtesy the artist







Dunja, Trickster, Lage IV, Palma, Daddy's trolley Installation, 2013; Photo by Emanuele Biondi

Donatella and Luciano Bernardi, Helvetic Zebra, 2014



Mounir Fatmi, Technologia, film still, 2010, video installation, 15 min, SD, B&W stereo

in their minds using a few simple references. "I consider that Switzerland as a simple object does not exist. To define what Switzerland is in order to make a show would be an easy mistake to make, so I prefer to create a fantasy, a dream, like a poetic animal that could only exist in an imaginary zoo: a Helvetic Zebra."

The title relates, as well, to the black and white dominance in the show, due to so many of the works being op art or typographic. It also refers to the Latin word for Swiss, Helvetica, more familiar from its namesake typeface by the Swiss designer Max Miedinger. A section of the show will be dedicated to book design, in partnership with the Swiss Design Awards, which will be off-set through Station's vast warehouse space by an

optical mural by Philippe Decrauzat, a series of black sculptures by Dunja Herzog, experimental video works by Franz Treichler, and sound pieces by Laurent Schmid.

In the main, the show brings aspects from the Swiss visual arts and design world to Lebanon, rather than exhibiting any parallel work by local artists. At the time of going to press, the only Arab artist being included is the celebrated and controversial Mounir Fatmi, selected "for his interest in language and technology"; he is Moroccan, based in Paris.

Bernardi is contributing to Helvetic Zebra in the role of artist as well as curator, presenting works

# POLYGLOTISM EXHIBITED

DADA, SURREALIST, OPTICAL AND RADIOPHONIC ART COLLIDE WITH CALLIGRAPHY, GRAPHIC DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY THIS AUTUMN IN AN EXHIBITION AT STATION THAT COLLATES ASPECTS FROM SWISS CULTURE AND REPRESENTS THEM AS A FICTIONAL WHOLE. PLAYING ON PARALLELS BETWEEN LEBANON AND SWITZERLAND, GUEST CURATOR DONATELLA BERNARDI EXHIBITS CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ONE POLYGLOT COUNTRY TO ANOTHER

**"I prefer to create a fantasy, a dream, like a poetic animal that could only exist in an imaginary zoo: a Helvetic Zebra" – Donatella Bernardi**

One of the milder aspects of Beirut's post-colonial story has been its dubbing with the absurd orientalist moniker 'the Paris of the Middle East'. During Lebanon's calm years in the 1950s and 1960s, a similarly Western perspective led to it being described as 'the Switzerland of the East'. Although accidentally skewed, this reference was based on the idea of both being small

on European religious architecture. She has previously said in interview, "Everything I do, I do as an artist", which perhaps explains the vagaries of her curatorial approach. As she has commented on herself, "I always keep an element of instinct, a curiosity, a taste for atypical situations, objects and unlikely parallels that could invalidate my work from an academic point of view."

*Helvetic Zebra opens 7th October at Station, Jisr El Wati. A program of talks, music and performances will accompany the exhibition.*