

Short Bio

Zurich-based artist Esther Kempf (born 1980 in Bafut, Cameroon) studied fine arts and scenography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, graduating in 2005.

In her artistic practice Esther Kempf works site-specifically, installatively and experimentally. She responds to architectural structures, peculiarities and histories of a place and combines them with longer-term research. Her main focus is on the use and imitation of natural phenomena, the unreliability of perception and the exploration of alternative forms of communication.

She has been exhibiting in Switzerland and Europe, among other places at Kunsthau Aarau, Kunsthau Langenthal, Helmhaus Zürich, exhibition space W139 in Amsterdam and Institute of Modern Art in Nurnberg, Germany. Kempf received several grants and awards, including grants of the Binz39 Foundation and the City of Zurich, as well as awards of the Kiefer Hablitzel and the Dr. Georg and Josi Guggenheim Foundation.

Besides her personal artistic practice, she is a member of the Fine Arts Commission of the City of Zurich, and the Freiraum-Stipendium, a self-organized residency program in Zurich. She is also organizer of and singer in the Lyre-choir and member of the WOFF-collective, organizer of a yearly concept party.