

Press Release

ZOLLAMT^{MMK}, 24 February – 23 June 2024

Opening: Friday, 23 February 2024, 7 pm–midnight

CHRISTELLE OYIRI: AN EYE FOR AN "I" PONTOPREIS MMK 2024



Christelle Oyiri, *AN EYE FOR AN "I"*, 2024

They can't be seen, but they have to see everything. They never stay fixed in one place. Without being noticed, they continually change their position and their vantage point. Despite the constant background noise, they pick up every sound. They are all eyes and ears. They know everyone—their habits, their movements. But no one sees them. They receive little payment but bear a huge responsibility. The *choufs* (*chouf*, meaning "see" or "look" in Arabic) stay at their posts, always on the alert. These discreet figures warn drug dealers immediately while remaining untraceable themselves.

In our present-day lives, it seems impossible to avoid being seen, observed, or analyzed. Cameras and cookies are watching every move, following each action, emotion, and thought. So how is freedom possible despite this? How can we feel free and think freely? How is it to oscillate between secrecy and having your sense of self located in the digital? Could the *chouf* be a model, a keystone of countersurveillance?

Christelle Oyiri (b. 1992), the winner of the 2024 PONTOPREIS MMK, has created a new immersive work for her solo exhibition at ZOLLAMT^{MMK}. The PONTOPREIS MMK is awarded every two years by the Jürgen Ponto-Stiftung in cooperation with the MUSEUM^{MMK} FÜR MODERNE KUNST.

Press photos can be downloaded here: <http://www.mmk.art/en/about/press>

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