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MOMENTUM - RACHEL RITS-VOLLOCH & CASSANDRA BIRD

Rachel Rits-Volloch is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Literature and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge in Film Studies. She wrote her dissertation on visceral spectatorship in contemporary cinema, focusing on the biological basis of embodiment. Having lectured in film studies and visual culture, her focus moved to contemporary art after she undertook a residency at A.R.T Tokyo. She founded MOMENTUM in 2010 in Sydney and it rapidly evolved into a global platform for time-based art, with a gallery in Berlin, a residency in Jerusalem, and a commitment to supporting international artists working in time-based media. In addition, Rachel acts as an independent art advisor connecting artists and clients internationally. She is currently based in Berlin, having previously lived and worked in the US, UK, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Istanbul, and Sydney.

Cassandra Bird holds an M.A. in Curatorship and Arts Administration from the University of New South Wales, College of Fine Arts (COFA) and graduated from Charles Sturt University with a B.A. in Theatre & Media and a double diploma in Business, marketing and advertising. She is the owner of von Bertouch Galleries in Newcastle, Australia, which was in her family for 50 years. Concurrently, Cassandra ran the broadcast design and animation team for two years, after working for five years as a designer for two television networks in Australia. She then went abroad to gain gallery experience with contemporary art, working at Venetia Kapernekas Gallery in New York, Johnen Galerie in Berlin, and DUVE Berlin. Cassandra has written for many art publications, both online and in print, in addition to acting as an independent art advisor connecting artists and clients internationally. She is currently living and working in Berlin.