

**APIAN**

**25 MAR – 12 JUN 2022**

*Apian* is an ongoing research project by artist **Aladin Borioli** exploring the relationship humans have developed with bees. Using a wide range of materials and technologies, his work aims to find alternative ways of living and interacting with bees on a more egalitarian basis.

Humans and bees have a long-standing symbiotic relationship mediated by evolving technologies and cultures. At a time in which insect populations are plummeting due to human activity, this exhibition explores what can be learnt from both the beneficial and harmful practices of beekeeping, in order to develop a sustainable life together.

The project uses a wide range of methods borrowed from anthropology, philosophy, art and beekeeping, to explore this age-old interspecies relationship.

The display features photography, text, video and audio from five overlapping strands. It includes: the book *Hives 2400 B.C.E. – 1852 C.E.*, the website *The Intimacy Machine*, the *Hiss* audio cassette, the *Inzerki*, and *The Beehive Metaphor* series. The entirety of the research project can be explored on the newly created *Apian Index* – [index.apian.ch](http://index.apian.ch) – a free and open online archive.

Archives, either formalised as online or printed publications, play an important role in Borioli's work. Bringing back the rich diversity of now forgotten hive designs, *Hives 2400 B.C.E. – 1852 C.E.* uncovers how the standardised modern beehive design, patented in 1852, undermined previous alternative beekeeping techniques in the name of efficiency and homogenisation. Similarly, *The Intimacy Machine* website collects scientific data that uses digital apparatuses and machine vision algorithms, in order to learn about bee behaviour and encounter bees on a more egalitarian basis. In doing so, it hopes to gather knowledge and offer alternatives for future beehives.

The assemblage of images, sounds and objects presented in this installation proposes a non-linear structure in the form of an atlas. The interconnected constellation of beekeeping experiences and techniques on display are not assembled through historical hierarchies but instead through difference and proximity. Creating connections between these diverse source materials, *Apian* invites us to consider how human concepts, and accompanying technologies, mediate and transform our ongoing relationship with bees.

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The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548.  
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This exhibition has been curated by Aladin Borioli and The Photographers' Gallery Digital Programme.

**-ENDS-**

### **Press Contacts**

For further press information and image requests please contact:  
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### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Aladin Borioli**

Born in 1988 in Switzerland, Aladin Borioli lives and work between Bevaix, Switzerland, and London. He holds a BA in Photography at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne and a MA in Visual and Media Anthropology from the Freie Universität Berlin. He is currently pursuing a certificate programme in Critical Philosophy at The New Centre for Research and Practice. His work borrows methods from anthropology and philosophy and combines them with the practice of art and beekeeping. Since 2014 he has been building a self-proclaimed ministry of bees called Apian, which explores the age-old interspecies relationship between bees and humans. The results are polymorphous ethnographies, which mix different media such as text, photography, sound, videos. Apian also aims to be collaborative and has been a site for meeting around shared sensibilities, for example with the biologist and zoologist Randolf Menzel and the artists Laurent Güdel and Ellen Lapper. This project has recently been exhibited at Eyebeam 2021, Images Vevey 2020, ICA London 2020 or CTM Festival Berlin 2019, among others. In 2020, the book Hives / Ruches (RVB/Images Vevey, 2020), a visual atlas of the beehive, was published.

#### **The Photographers' Gallery**

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Covent Garden, London, as the UK's first independent and publicly funded gallery devoted to photography. It was the first UK gallery to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009 the Gallery relocated to a new multi-storey building in Ramillies Street, Soho and opened its doors to the public in 2012 after an ambitious redevelopment plan which provided the Gallery with three floors of state-of-the-art exhibition space as well as an education/events studio, a gallery for commercial sales, bookshop and cafe. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past five decades has helped to secure the medium's position as a vital and highly regarded art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

[www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

#### **Visitor Information**

(please check website for latest opening information)

**Opening times:**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00 – 18.00

Thursday & Friday (Late opening): 10.00 – 20.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 18.00

Sunday: 11.00 – 18.00

**General Admission:** £5 / £2.50 Concessions. Fridays 18.00 - 20.00 Free for everyone

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**Social media**

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