

# THE HILLSIDE

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Katie Shannon

*Last song for a waterbaby*

23.03.19 — 05.05.19

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*Last song for a waterbaby* is a new exhibition by artist Katie Shannon that moves between sound, image, print, sculpture and video.

Katie's work draws on a broad network of experiences and ideas, from the intimacy of the underground music scenes she is a part of, to Art rock bands such as *Angel Corpus Christi*, filmic heroines including the lady drinker in Ulrike Ottingers' 1979 *Ticket of No Return*, and the writings of philosopher Federico Campagna on technic and magic. Her practice takes shape in the flow between events, performance, creating music, records and exhibitions with others.

*Last song for a waterbaby* explores the alliances and collective experiences that form on dancefloors; kinships that are disconnected from reproduction or normative family structures. It is an articulation of the joy and melancholy of an attempt to extend youth, exploring 'the stretched out adolescence' as described by queer theorist Jack Halberstam 'that disrupts conventional accounts of subculture, youth culture, adulthood, race, class, and maturity.'

In *Last song for a waterbaby* images of Katie's friends – their late-night rituals and post-clubbing baths – are sampled, distorted, remixed and layered. Prints are stretched and hanging across the space on latex, a material that is bodily, semi-translucent, which degrades and yellows over time (a yellowing that Katie likens to nicotine-stained fingers). The distorted surfaces have become a screen for a video collage documenting the semi-lucid bathing of two friends. Latex costumes, that will later be adapted and repurposed for a late night event in Berlin called CLIMAX, hang amidst the other imagery and a sonic work made with musicians Cucina Povera and Alicia Matthews plays on a record player in the space.

Katie has collaborated with Slaghammers, an all-female identifying welding collective based in Glasgow, to produce the metal frames, costume hangers and a steel record sleeve that structure this print installation. Katie regularly designs and makes records for other artists; the steel record sleeve presented here is the first she has made in the context of an exhibition.

Katie Shannon was resident at the CCA Creative Lab in 2018, recent performances and exhibitions include *The Last Song*, performance, CCA, Glasgow, 2018; performance with Kübler-Ross at CCA reopening event, Glasgow, 2018; *Neo-Pagan-Bitch-Witch!*, Evelyn Yard, London, 2016 and *Chockablock*, Voidoid, Glasgow, 2016. She was part of *Three Works*, Orlandozone, 2017. Katie collectively runs a record label called Domestic Exile, an occasional Goth club called *So Low* and late-night event Daisies, in collaboration with France-Lise McGurn, which invites DJs and artists to contribute performances, installations, and artworks.

**Satellites Programme** is Collective's development programme for emergent artists and producers based in Scotland. Satellites aims to support practitioners at a pivotal point in their careers through a critical programme of retreats, workshops, studio visits and group discussions, public exhibitions, events and publishing. Artists are selected from an open submission by a new panel each year. The 2018-19 participants are Helen McCrorie, Emmie McLuskey, Kimberley O'Neill and Katie Shannon.

COLLECTIVE

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1. Metal, latex and screenprint, 2019. Left to right:

*A Pitched Down Higher State of Consciousness 1*  
*Future Threat vest*  
*Early Morning coat*  
*A Pitched Down Higher State of Consciousness skirt*  
*Feedback Jenny top*  
*Reverse Feedback Jenny top*  
*Climax vest*  
*Feedback dress 1*

2. Metal, latex and screenprint, 2019. Left to right:

*Future Threat vest 2*  
*Feedback dress 2*  
*Future Threat vest 3*  
*Karolina Bath 1-2*  
*State of Karolina dress*  
*Karolina Bath 3*  
*Late Night Eyes*  
*State of Grace*  
*Milk 1-2*  
*Screen Feedback*

3. *Last song for a waterbaby*, projection, record and sleeve, 2019.

Katie would like to thank the Slaghammers, DCA Print Studio, Celia Phillips, Asia Apolonia Przytarska, Roos Dijkhuizen, Eddie Brooks, Alicia Matthews, Maria Rossi and Ronan Fay.

