

Media Release

Extrasensory – Chloe Wise

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G

12 June – 6 September 2026

Curated by Samuel Leuenberger

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G presents *Extrasensory*, the first major institutional exhibition in Switzerland by New York-based artist Chloe Wise (b. 1990). Curated by Samuel Leuenberger, the exhibition introduces Wise's most expansive film project to date, conceived as a multichannel installation within a large-scale immersive environment.

At the centre of the exhibition is the three-channel film titled *PsyFi**, which explores how cultures across time have sought to describe encounters with the unknown. Drawing parallels between religious visions and contemporary accounts of extraterrestrial phenomena, Wise suggests that experiences once understood as angelic apparitions, beings of light, telepathic communication, or states of ecstasy, find close resonance today in narratives of UFOs and non-human intelligence. While the language used to interpret such phenomena has shifted across historical and technological contexts, the underlying experience remains strikingly consistent.

Rather than seeking to validate or refute these systems of belief, Wise's work focuses on how storytelling, imagery, and cultural frameworks shape the way such encounters are perceived and understood. Figures associated with angels, supernatural entities, or technological apparitions emerge as unstable constructs, oscillating between archetype and projection, and exposing the limits of language when faced with the ineffable.

Written and directed by Chloe Wise and produced by GUMMY Films, *PsyFi** marks the artist's most ambitious cinematic undertaking to date, bringing together collaborators from across film, music, costume, and performance.

The film unfolds within an immersive three-channel installation, surrounding viewers in a continuously shifting cinematic environment. Drawing on recognizable visual languages, from science fiction cinema to religious iconography, *Extrasensory* foregrounds how perception is conditioned by cultural codes.

In the film, seven archetypal figures emerge as embodiments of mystical or metaphysical phenomena. Performed by a cast bringing together international actors and artistic collaborators, including American rapper JT, actors Ben Ahlers, Delaney Rowe, Michael Buscemi, Lucas Bravo and Bianca Leigh, visual artists Miles Greenberg, Moses Sumney, Martine Syms, Martine Gutierrez, the protagonists occupy deliberately exaggerated roles that blur belief systems, cultural archetypes and ideological projections. *PsyFi** echoes the

iconography of Wise's paintings while drawing on the aesthetics of late 20th-century cinema and television, creating a seductive yet uncanny register that underscores the exhibition's engagement with persuasion, fantasy, and the circulation of mass imagery.

The exhibition extends beyond the film into a sequence of spatial environments that further develop its conceptual framework. Visitors first encounter a room conceived as an esoteric roadside gift shop, where religious objects and UFO paraphernalia coexist, rosaries, figurines, tarot cards, and souvenirs, collapsing distinctions between belief, commerce, and everyday experience. A second space, evokes at once a backstage dressing room, a place of worship, and a spacecraft interior, combining familiarity with disorientation. Together, these environments frame belief not as a fixed system, but as something encountered through objects, repetition, and cultural circulation.

"Extrasensory emerged from my interest in how, across centuries, people have tried to describe experiences that exist beyond language, logic, or proof, from angels and visions to extraterrestrial beings. The exhibition explores how perception is shaped by storytelling, belief systems, media, and imagery, and how the unknown is continually translated through the visual language of its time. I'm interested in ambiguity, especially in a moment defined by scientific and technological modalities, where we have been told to disregard unexplainable phenomena. I'm interested in re-enchantment, and in finding the parallels between science fiction and divinity." — Chloe Wise

"With *Extrasensory*, KBH.G is proud to present Chloe Wise's first major institutional exhibition in Switzerland. Her work speaks incisively to the conditions of our present moment, where images, belief systems, and sensory experience continuously overlap and collide. This exhibition reflects our commitment to supporting ambitious contemporary practices that challenge perception, expand artistic language, and invite audiences into complex, immersive encounters."

— Raphael Suter, Director Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G

A new artist's book, published by Hatje Cantz, accompanies the exhibition and will be available free of charge to visitors. Bringing together contributions from psychoanalysis, art history, scientific research, and personal testimony, the publication extends the exhibition's inquiry through diverse forms of language and interpretation.

Notes to Editors

About the Artist

Chloe Wise (b. 1990, Montreal, Canada) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans painting, sculpture, video, and installation. She received her BFA from Concordia University in Montreal and currently lives and works in New York.

Wise's work is grounded in an interest in the history of portraiture and examines the multiple channels through which the Self is constructed, particularly the interweaving of consumption and image-making. With humor and irony, she references canonical art-historical tableaux while probing projected desires surrounding food, femininity, and the body. Her meticulously hand-painted casts of food, assembled into uncanny sculptural forms, sustain a tension between permanence and perishability, fiction and reality. Drawing on references from advertising, fashion, taboo, and multinational branding, Wise both parodies contemporary consumptive habits and exposes the ways in which the body is framed, stylized, and rendered excessive within systems of visual culture.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Myth Information*, Almine Rech, New York (2025); *Told A Vision*, Art Basel Parcours, Basel (2023); *In the Loveliness of Perfect Deeds*, Blouin Division, Montréal (2022); *Spite Unseen*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva (2022); and *Chloe Wise*, HEART – Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Herning, Denmark (2019).

Her work has also been included in notable group exhibitions at institutions including Centre Pompidou-Metz (2025), Kunstverein Bielefeld (2024), LACMA, Los Angeles (2022), and The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2021), as well as exhibitions at Kasmin Gallery, New York (2021), König Galerie, Berlin (2021), David Zwirner, New York (2020), and Gagosian, New York (2019).

Wise is the subject of two monographs: *Second Nature* (2021) and *Chloe Wise* (2016).

About the Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G

The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G was founded in 2019 by philanthropist Sibylle Geiger (1930–2020), who named the foundation after her grandfather, Swiss pharmacist and entrepreneur Hermann Geiger (1870–1962). The foundation's mission is to provide a unique platform for art and culture to the city of Basel and its residents and visitors. All the foundation's activities aim to add a new dimension to Basel's already rich cultural offerings. The foundation holds three independent art exhibitions each year, with free admission and publications.

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Film Credits

*PsyFi**

Written and directed by Chloe Wise

Production Company — GUMMY Films

Executive Producer — Rachel Walden

Produced by — Chris Dagostino and Janet Manina

Director of Photography — Hunter Zimny

Production Design — Charlie Robinson

Costumes — Natasha Simchowicz

Hair — Sean Bennett

SFX Makeup — Izzi Galindo and Nina Carelli

Composer — Loke Rahbek

Editors — Dustin Waldman, Nick Nazmi, Allen Cordell, and Graham Patterson

Exhibition Details

Extrasensory – Chloe Wise:

12 June – 6 September 2026

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G
Spitalstrasse 18, 4056 Basel, Switzerland

Admission and publication are free

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High-resolution images available upon request