

# Pilvi Takala

## *Close Watch*

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für Gegenwartskunst

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*Close Watch* is an art show by Pilvi Takala. It opens on Friday, June 9, 2023 and then lasts from Saturday, June 10 to Sunday, September 17, 2023.

### About Pilvi Takala

Pilvi Takala is an artist from Finland. She was born in 1981 in Helsinki in Finland. She lives and works in two cities: Helsinki in Finland and Berlin in Germany. Pilvi Takala has shown her art in well-known places. For example, at the «MoMA PS1» and the «New Museum» in New York, in the «Palais de Tokyo» in Paris, in the «Kunsthalle Basel» in Basel, at the «Manifesta 11» in Zurich and at the «Biennale» in Venice.

### About the art of Pilvi Takala

Pilvi Takala studies how we all live together every day. In doing so, she plays a role like an actor. She films how people respond to the role she takes on. She then uses these films to make a special work of art: a **video installation**.

A video installation shows films in a separate room at a museum. Visitors to the museum can walk through this room. As they do so, they become part of the art.

### Examples of her earlier work

Video projection «**The Trainee**» from 2008: Pilvi Takala studied how we work every day. To do so, she worked at a company as a trainee. The company did not know that Pilvi Takala was an artist. This is what she looked at as a trainee: What are the rules at work? What does the company expect from its employees?

Video projection «**Bag Lady**» from 2006: Pilvi Takala visited a shopping centre. She took along a plastic bag. The bag was full of money. People at the shopping centre could see the money through the bag. They were very surprised to see the money. Security guards warned Pilvi Takala to be more careful with her money. Pilvi Takala was able to prove: Money and security are especially important in our society.

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## **Close Watch from 2022**

Video installation at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst

### **Close Watch is about Security and Supervision**

Pilvi Takala trained as a security guard in a company called «Securitas». After the training, she worked for 6 months for the same company. She worked at a large shopping centre in Finland. This is what Pilvi looked at: What do Securitas guards have to do? What are they responsible for? Later, she interviewed the Securitas guards. She also held a workshop with them. She filmed the interviews and the workshop.

### **What do the videos show?**

#### **Workshop**

In the workshop, the Securitas guards played again what had happened before at work. For example: A person is stealing something. And the Securitas guards catch the person stealing. During the workshop, the Securitas guards play this situation again. They try to react better. For example: How can they react without using force? How can they react without being racist?

#### **Interviews**

This is what the Securitas guards are talking about: What is my role? How much power do I have? What am I allowed to do for more security? What am I not allowed to do?

#### **Text messages**

There are videos with text messages. The text messages show what Pilvi Takala and other persons say to each other.

### **How to watch the video installations**

There are two rooms with a glass wall between them.

In the first room, the glass wall is like a mirror: You cannot see the other room through it. In this first room, you can watch videos. You cannot watch the persons in the second room. But the persons in the second room can watch you. You are in the role of a person being watched by others: You are being supervised.

In the second room, you can see the first room through the glass wall. In this second room, you can watch videos as well. But you can also watch the persons in the first room: You can supervise them. You are in the role of a security guard.

### **Here are a few questions to think about:**

How important is your security? Do you want to be supervised by others in the future? How much do you want to be supervised by others in the future?

More information: [www.migrosmuseum.ch](http://www.migrosmuseum.ch)

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