

## Swiss Artist Talk

Dear Patricia,

Swiss Artist Talk is an interview series featuring current Swiss artists-in-residence living in New York. The goal is to share your work, ideas and experiences in NY with our audience through our various social media platforms. Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions below and please include the following information:

- 1) Your Name: Patricia Jacomella
- 2) Name of grant giver: Grant of Culture-Department of Central Switzerland Cantons
- 3) Dates residing in NY: From Mai to September 2017
- 4) Short Bio:

Born in Geneva in 1952, I grew up in Lugano and have lived in Zug since 1986. I graduated at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan and after my first degree in fashion design I worked one year for Baratta Fashion Maison in Milan. Unsatisfied by the fashion industry I started to study again and took my degree in Contemporary Art at the Accademia di Belle Arti Brera in Milan. Afterwards I visited the postgraduate course at the Istituto Statale d'Arte in Urbino and the program of research with Prof. R. Licata at the Istituto Internazionale di Grafica in Venice. From 2001 to 2004 I was in charge for the Resort Info-Pool and communication of the Visarte board (Professional association of visual arts Switzerland) and part of the editorial staff of the art reviews "Schweizer Kunst" Zürich. In 1991 I founded the Art Label "J&W management consulting" that came from a shared rejection of a system of art in which its symbolic and cultural values were reduced to a mere instrument for creating economic plus-values. In 2003 I won the prize "Collection Cahiers d'Artistes" from the Arts Council of Switzerland Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Selection. Now I got the opportunity to come to New York with the residency of the Culture-Department of Central-Switzerland to improve my skills in new media.

- 5) A Selfie (please provide a picture of yourself):



## Questions

Please feel free to include as many pictures, links, soundcloud, videos, etc. as you like to share with our audience.

1) What are you working on right now?

As a multimedia artist I'm known for reinterpreting ordinary items of everyday consumption. I often employ discarded material such as trash and waste products to create installations and performances which challenge the rigid structures that govern contemporary societies. In New York I can define myself as a collector, right now I'm collecting not only objects or photographic and video material, but more than anything else impressions, feelings and also paradoxes.



Plastic bags collection



Plastic bags cut



Ball of plastic bags



Work in progress

2) Can we see a picture of your current workspace?

Of course, you can see my current workspace with my new collection of New Yorker trash. The amazing quantity of plastic bags that stores distribute for each purchase has literally upset me. I am very disturbed by the proliferation of plastic in the oceans and I feel that plastic is the most damaging refuse being discarded at this moment.



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Atelier

3) What work of yours are you most proud of?

It is very difficult to say, because each finished work represents the beginning of a new one like a chain. Each work is comparable with a word or a phrase and the whole works form a story. I never look at my passed works, they belong to a historical period or specific place; I am always concentrated on the continuation of the story namely on the next project.

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4) What inspires you the most?

People. New York is the most interesting and fascinating city for its mix of cultures and ethnic groups, for its mix of traditions, habits and customs. Swiss people also have this characteristic mix of groups and I find it very interesting to compare the behavior of people who live in a metropolis with people who live in a small country.

5) How is New York influencing your work?

My work focuses on the public sphere, exploring issues from everyday life and a wide range of rifts around the global impact of human behavioral change. Concerning my work, New York is an inexhaustible source of inspirations but it is speaking with people where I discover the most interesting ideas for my work.



6) What is your favorite place in New York?

New York is a particularly interesting city for its diversity and wealth of details. If I have to choose I would say rather the area under the 14<sup>th</sup> St and Brooklin's Borough than a place like Time Square which to me seems a bit distort from tourists and advertisings but also fascinating for its paradoxes.

7) What are you hoping to gain from your stay here in New York that you can take with you back to Switzerland?

One of the most important things I can take back from my stay in New York is a lot of new inputs and ideas that I will develop in my future projects and artworks. Not only that, but I am also spending time sharpening and honing my skills I already possessed: I was admitted to SVA (School of Visual Arts) in the Fine Arts Summer Residency in Contemporary Practices.

8) Where can people see more of your work?

[www.patriciajacomella.com](http://www.patriciajacomella.com) or Google.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

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9) Anything else you would like to add?

A great dream came true! I'm immensely grateful and thankful for this fabulous opportunity!

Thank you very much for your time!