



Wednesday,  
17 June 2020  
18:00

# Domestic Optimism

Online Performance  
and Discussion

## Sexually Dissident Domestic Design

In English

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Colonial aesthetics, obscenity trials, masculine hysteria, crime scene photography, sexology, the production and obfuscation of the lesbian throughout modernity, and the contemporary collapse of post-war social housing projects, all intersect in *Domestic Optimism*, a critical queer and working class reading of architecture, furniture, and modernist aesthetics. The performance enacts forms of inscription, temporal displacements, and slippages from a much-ignored 'sapphic' modernity, making a mess of outdated museum display and exhausted historical legacies. The designer Eileen Gray has been an important figure in the project's research, not as a singular heroic modernist fit for canonization, but as a collectively involved queer woman, part of an extended peer group of dykey women makers in Paris throughout the early twentieth century.

**With  
Emma Wolf-Haugh**

Supported by The Project Arts Centre, The Grazer Kunstverein, and The Irish Arts Council, *Domestic Optimism* will be realized as a solo exhibition and accompanying programme at the Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, in September 2020, and at The Project Arts Centre, Dublin, in January 2021. Development of *Domestic Optimism* has been supported by an IMMA 1000 residency and by a research residency at Askeaton Contemporary Arts (ACA).

**Organized by  
Amelia Groom**

The event will take place online –  
please register in advance via [info@ici-berlin.org](mailto:info@ici-berlin.org),  
the number of participants will be limited.

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