

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Emma Rosenzweig

Ørstedsparken has never been as beautiful as in "Under the Bridge," Emma Rosenzweig's graduation work from the art academy Städelschule, Frankfurt.

The sun plays in the leaves of the willow trees, which rustle gently and are reflected in the bold water of the lake. The statues gracefully bend towards each other and exchange seductive glances while the birds sing in the background.

On a bridge in the middle of the park, a group of women have established a beauty clinic that exudes pastel-colored wellness. A confidential, feminine community of caring touches, loving looks, and soft self-optimization through needles and nail polish. It's a place you seek out to be a different version of yourself once you have passed the bridge.

Rosenzweig's tactile 16 mm film has been created on the basis of extensive research, carried out at one of the beauty clinics that have moved from anonymous, understated addresses to prominent streets in the last ten years as treatments such as Botox and fillers are increasingly destigmatized. The work explores a time of conflict, where different ideals of beauty, naturalness, technology, feminism, and activism collide.

Through the meeting with a young woman who wants to change her face, and her mother, whose ideals go in a different direction, Rosenzweig establishes a generation gap between two different understandings of feminism and identity. Where the young woman invokes the right to decide over her own body, the mother points to the problematic objectification of the female body. With references to Romantic ideals of nature, Rosenzweig opens up the difficult conversation about how female beauty remains a currency; for 4th wave feminists who wish to destigmatize bodily modification and for the beauty clinics capitalizing on a changing ideal of women.

Emma Rosenzweig (b. 1990) graduated from the art academy Städelschule in Frankfurt in 2024. She has previously organized the film club "Ulvetimen" in Husets biograf and "Den Blå Time" at Kunsthal Charlottenborg. She has also exhibited film works such as "Beautiful Boy" at Galleri Bo Bjerggaard in Copenhagen, "The Period" at the Goethe Institute in Ireland and organized a number of salons based on Simone De Beauvoir's books "The Second Sex" at Gammel Strand. Since 2019, Rosenzweig has written essays for Weekendavisen. In August, her first novel "I Give Everything Away" was published by the publisher Gyldendal. "Under the Bridge" is Rosenzweig's first solo exhibition in Denmark.