

# Artist frozen in front of Lucerne lion in protest – rts.ch

September 30, 2020



Frozen on a raft in the position of a lion, Swiss artist Barbara Kiener protests against “inaction” in the face of refugees who risk their lives in the Mediterranean. Since Wednesday morning and for 24 hours, she marks the Lion Monument in Lucerne with her presence.

No break is scheduled during the performance of the artist frozen aboard his makeshift boat on the monument’s pond. To eat, she only provided water that she took with her on her raft. Barbara Kiener has prepared herself physically and mentally to cope, organizers tell Keystone-ATS.

The performer and visual artist from Interlaken is performing for the bicentenary of the Lion Monument next year. His performance is part of a series of events that the Kunsthalle Lucerne is offering on this occasion.

## Embodiments of paralysis in the face of tragedies

Since 1821, a dying lion, carved in the rock of an old quarry, has

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stood above a pond in a park in Lucerne. One of the most visited monuments in Switzerland, it pays homage to a regiment of Swiss Guards in the service of the King of France. These mercenaries fell in 1792 in the Jardin des Tuileries, in Paris, facing the revolutionaries.

In her own way, artist Barbara Kiener wants to remind the public of the consequences of war. His frozen and silent posture constitutes a critique of the wait-and-see attitude of humanity awaiting better times on the political, societal and human levels. It embodies the paralysis in the face of the tragedies that occur in the Mediterranean Sea and wherever war rages.

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