

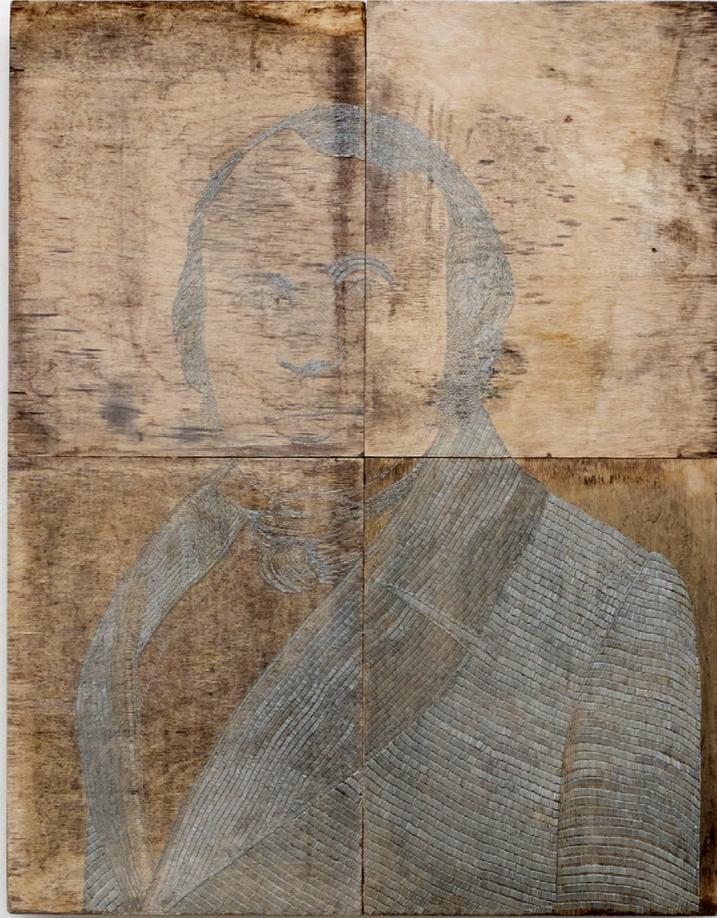
# Sasha Huber

# a solo exhibition

Print this activity or find a blank sheet of paper and a pencil.

Kunstinstituut Melly

## Sasha Huber



*Shooting Back Louis Agassiz (1807-1873), 2008.*

People who visit the exhibition of artist Sasha Huber will notice the name Louis Agassiz appears a lot. Louis Agassiz lived in Switzerland, has worked as a researcher and lived a long time ago, from the year 1807 till 1873. In his work as a researcher, he discovered that the Earth was very cold for a long period; this period we call the ice age. He also researched the people who lived in America. Still nowadays, a lot of places in nature are named after Louis Agassiz. Not only places but also animals and even places on the planet Mars or on the Moon are named after him. Artist Sasha Huber feels this is not fair, believing those places should be renamed because Louis Agassiz is not only famous for his “good deeds”... In fact, Agassiz pursued a racist ‘science’ of human development, in which black people were proposed as being biologically inferior. Together with a group of experts Sasha Huber protests to get the places named after Louis Agassiz renamed.

## Naming places

Louis Agassiz thought that white people were better than people of colour. During his scientific career, he tried to prove it by making photos of enslaved people against their will. Those people were taken out of Africa, their country of birth, to work in countries as America and Surinam. For the work they achieved they never received any pay.

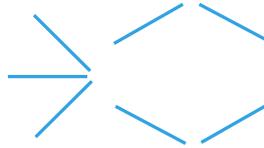
One of the enslaved people forced to participate in Louis Agassiz's research was a man named Renty. The artist Sasha Huber would much rather see the places and animals that were named after Louis Agassiz be renamed after Renty.

On the first page of this activity you find a portrait of Louis Agassiz. When having a close look, you can see the artist did not use paint or pencil to make this portrait but staples.



1a.  
Why do you think she used staples?

1b.  
How many staples did she use according to you?



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In the right column you see three different photos that show the artist photographed naked. The artist is photographed in a special way, which is the same way Renty and the other enslaved people were photographed against their will in Louis Agassiz's research. Photos have been taken at places named after Louis Agassiz.

1c.  
In which country do you think photographs have been taken? Write down the answer under the photo.

1d.  
Why do you think the artist has chosen these places to make these photos?



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Agassiz: The Mixed Traces Series, 2010-2017.  
Images: Sasha Huber.

# From Agassizhorn to Rentyhorn!



Exhibition overview.

If you enter the exhibition of Sasha Huber, you may be surprised about a big white mountain in the middle of the room. This mountain is not just a mountain but a place to sit as well. From this mountain you have a good view on a big screen that shows different movies by the artist.

The artist protests to change the name of the mountain Agassizhorn to Rentyhorn. She does this by writing letters to the government of Switzerland and other agencies.

2a. Do you think the mountain should be named Rentyhorn?

yes / no

2c. What do you think could be another good name for the mountain?

2b. Explain why.

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## This mountain belongs to ...

The artist Sasha Huber works hard to show us with her art the dark side behind the name Agassiz. In this way she likes to set a spotlight on people that during their lives did not get a chance to do so themselves.

Tip! You can create a world around your mountain. For example you can do that by using fabrics or pieces out of nature like leaves or grass. For inspiration check [kunstintituutmelly.nl](http://kunstintituutmelly.nl), where you can see what others did.

3a.  
Who or what in our world do you think deserves more attention?

Write your answer down in the mountain on this page in beautiful letters. Cut out the letters and the mountain with scissors. Find a lamp and put the it in front of the mountain and find a spot on the wall. Now you can see your letters lit up on the wall.

3c.  
Make a picture of your text and send it with your name, age, and a title to [activiteiten@kunstintituutmelly.nl](mailto:activiteiten@kunstintituutmelly.nl).