“Friend” is the loosest of terms we have for how we relate to each other. Michel Foucault calls friendship “a desire, an uneasiness, a desire-in-uneasiness.” Not always democratic or inclusive, friendship starts with negation: we collectively wish everyone else would go away. Friendship can be impolite, and as it unfolds, it can be opaque and asymmetrical, tortuous. It is tensile, capable of bearing heart-wrenching passion, ambivalence, or even the absence of feeling. It is sometimes what’s left when nothing else is possible.

More broadly, friendship is a mode of alliance that exists beyond typical kinship and outside of institutional relations (family, profession). It’s an elective affinity without finality. Being a good friend signals an inclination to form anomalous, unproductive bonds that exceed strategic self-interest. An essentially political relationship—one of allegiance and responsibility—it offers a framework for interrogating how we live and work and exist in the world. It offers a possibility for a new poetics of the Other.

*Smashing into my heart* looks at friendship as a condition, a model, and a metaphor for art. The artworks presented engage with regimes of care, structures of support, horizontal relationships. They are steeped in affection, desire, longing, jealousy, comfort, love. The tone is sentimental—irony has left the building.

Curated by Myriam Ben Salah.
1. Ebecho Muslimova  
**FATEBE BIG SQUEEZE AT COBB HALL**, 2021  
Wallpaper, acrylic paint  
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zurich

2, 3. Nairy Baghramian  
**Mooring (hanging)**, 2016  
Cast aluminum  
Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York

4. Xinyi Cheng  
**A Whip**, 2018  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist and Craig Robins Collection

5. Julia Phillips  
**Negotiator (#1)**, 2020  
Cast aluminum  
Courtesy the artist and Matthew Marks Gallery, New York

Hervé Guibert

7. **C à la villa**, n.d.  
Courtesy of Callicoon Fine Arts, New York

8. Camille Blatrix  
**Ask OFF**, 2021  
Pear wood, acrylic resin, stainless steel, LED system  
Courtesy of the artist and Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York
9. Laurent Derobert
*Index of Proximity*, 2021
Courtesy of the artist.

10. Hervé Guibert
*Eugène - Poirier*, 1988
Gelatin silver print
Courtesy of Callicoon Fine Arts, New York

Park McArthur

11. *These are the questions I would ask*, 2013

12. *Some follow up questions*, 2017


14. *Involuntary Questions*, 2020
Inkjet prints
Courtesy of the artist and Essex Street/Maxwell Graham, New York

15. Camille Blatrix
*They play We play*, 2021
Acrylic resin, wood, printed laminate, led system, electronic component, wooden marquetry
Courtesy of the artist and Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York

16. Ceal Floyer
*Me/You (Love Me Tender)*, 2009
2-channel audio
Courtesy of the artist and 303 Gallery, New York
Hervé Guibert
18. *Hans Georg et Thierry a Montecatini*, 1983
Gelatin silver prints
Adhesive vinyl print
Courtesy of Callicoon Fine Arts, New York

20. Tita Cicognani
*I Am So Full of Longing and Desire It Gushes Out of My Knees as They Scrape the Ground Upon Which I Crawl Toward You*, 2020
Video, 6m 29s
Courtesy of the artist

21. Neïl Beloufa
*Untitled*, 2016-2021
Steel, resin, pigment
Courtesy of the artist and Francois Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles

22. Laurent Derobert
*Axiom of Intimacy*, 2021
Courtesy of the artist

23. Camille Blatrix
*Siren*, 2019
Acrylic resin, stainless steel, plexiglass, light bulb
Courtesy of the artist and Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York