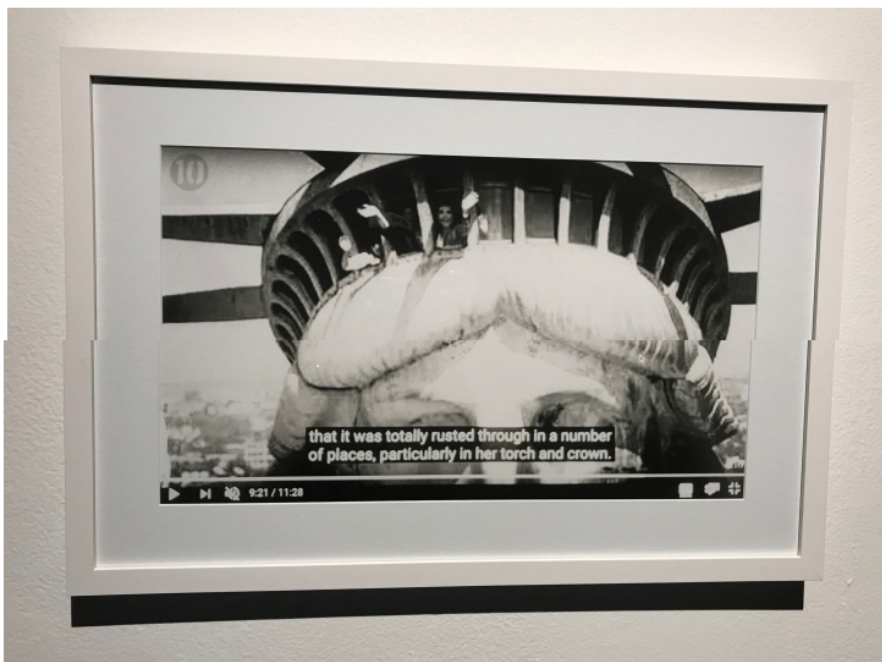


# Finding Kinship with Witchcraft in the Fight Against Patriarchy

An exhibition revisits the life of the last European woman to be executed for witchcraft.

Abe Ahn February 15, 2018

f t e 171 Shares



Johanna Breiding, "Liberty Enlightening the World (July 4, 1776)" (2017), gelatin silver print (all images by the author for Hyperallergic)

LOS ANGELES — In 1782 Anna Göldi became the last European woman to be executed for witchcraft. The Swiss woman and domestic servant had previously run afoul of authorities and lived as a fugitive before her death. At a younger age, she was held responsible for her firstborn child's death and sentenced to house arrest. She skipped town and managed to settle in the nearby town of Glarus where she found work as a maid. At 47, she was accused by her employer of trying to magically "poison" one of his daughters with needles, although the true intent of the accusation might have been to prevent her from revealing an affair. More than 200 years later, the Swiss government exonerated Göldi of her crime, acknowledging her death as a violation of human rights and erecting a memorial to her in the town in which she was executed.

Anna Göldi's story is the through-line of Johanna Breiding's exhibition at the Angels Gate Cultural Center, which begins with a video installation depicting the small, mountainous town of Glarus where Göldi was killed and buried. The short film (a collaboration with curator Shoghig Halajian and scored by artist Dorian Wood) features still shots of the Swiss town's verdant hills and



## POPULAR

- 1 [Pseudoarchaeology and the Racism Behind Ancient Aliens](#)
- 2 [The Japanese Prints that Inspired Vincent van Gogh](#)
- 3 [Discerning Photography's White Gaze](#)
- 4 [An Ambitious Survey of Modern Artist Couples](#)
- 5 [Denied Entry, Cats Try to Paw Past Japanese Museum Security Guard](#)

See the Art World in a New Light.

**Sotheby's**  
INSTITUTE OF ART

EXPLORE COURSES

Advertise on Hyperallergic with Nectar Ads

## SPONSORED

- 1 [Discover the Artist Community at the New York Studio School](#)