

## ***Il était une fois un tout petit pois***

***Sara Badr Schmidt***

*Il était une fois un tout petit pois* is an installation that brings together several places, historical periods and socio-political contexts to consider the possibility of coexistence. It does not merely raise a theoretical proposition, it echoes a practical concern: “living together” generates immeasurable violence when it fails.

The installation positions the spectator in relation to the human vulnerability that arises when faced with violence and conflict. A variation of the fairy tale of the Princess and the Pea, a young girl sleeps on a pile of mattresses in the center of the room. She lies beneath a bedframe, on top of which there is an enormous pea in the form of a cannonball. This fairy tale derivative involves no wedding engagement; the girl is aware of an impending threat and looks for shelter. Despite the sense of danger, Badr calls on the surviving viewer to keep on dreaming.

Badr reenchants this world of horror through fairy tales – disquieting, and at once, a source of poetry and dreams. This installation began the day after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, and is part of a larger project titled *Borderless* which is concerned with geographic and transitory borders.

