2 LIZARDS
SEPT 30, 2022–FEB 19, 2023

2 Lizards, a film by artists Meriem Bennani (b. 1988, Rabat, Morocco; lives and works in New York, NY) and Orian Barki (b. 1985, Israel; lives and works in New York, NY), depicts a surrealist view of the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic as it unfolded in New York City. In the film, two animated anthropomorphized lizards serve as protagonists, moving through a city gripped by a pandemic, extended isolation, and cries for social justice reform. It highlights the helplessness and uncertainty experienced by many at the time, as well as the unexpected moments of shared community and connection. Originally released as an eight-part episodic series on Bennani's Instagram account, the Whitney's presentation of *2 Lizards* is its first institutional screening as a narrative film.

This installation is organized by Rujeko Hockley, Arnhold Associate Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Generous support for *2 Lizards* is provided by the John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Artists Council.

ORIAN BARKI
1 WORK IN THE COLLECTION, 2 EXHIBITIONS

VIEW ARTIST

MERIEM BENNANI
2 WORKS IN THE COLLECTION, 3 EXHIBITIONS

VIEW ARTIST

INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPHY

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EXPLORE WORKS FROM THIS EXHIBITION IN THE WHITNEY'S COLLECTION

VIEW 1 WORK

IN THE NEWS

"...the 2 Lizards series is a time capsule—and a rather uplifting one, when you consider how far we've come." —*W Magazine*

"Infused with hints of what was deemed as a "new normal" at the time, the sequences contemplate the urban realities of a global emergency..." —*The Art Newspaper*

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