

VIRGINIA ARIU

Selected works 2023-2026

KUNSTSTIPENDIEN DER STADT ZÜRICH 2026
July 11 - Sept. 13, 2026
Helmhaus, Zurich, CH

Works Martin Andereggen, Virginia Ariu, Johanna Bruckner, Caterina De Nicola, Bettina Eberhard, Cédric Eisenring, Philipp Farra, June Fischer, Tereza Glazova, Aleya Günay, Samuel Haitz, Nadia Hauri, Bernhard Hegglin, Martin Heynen, Gilles Jacot, Thomas Julier, David Knuckey, Jiri Makovec, Angelos Merges, Alexei Aad Monney, Yusuf Orhan, Jonathan Ospina, Cora Piantoni, lean rüegg, Marie Schumann, Laura Sennhauser, Sebastian Stadler, Stirnimann-Stojanovic, Lucca Cora Süss, Flavia Trachsler, U5, Ariane Vonmoos, Arnaud Wohlhauser

Formula for a New Feeling, 2026
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, wood, aluminium
200 x 90 cm (2x)







ANOTHER WIG

Mar 21 - May 15, 2026

Wiener Art Foundation, Trieste, IT

Curated by Antonia Lia Orsi

Works by Virginia Ariu, Xenia Bond, COBRA, Maria Cozma, Sofia Duchovny, Ignatz Freer, Carrie McGrath, Charly Mirambeau, Vincenzo Ottino, Matthieu Palud, James Sturkey, Xtina Vargas

First Rebirth, 2026

Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
31 x 39 cm

Next page:

World of Dopamine, 2026

Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
54 x 38cm





THE GRAND OPENING
Jan 15 - Feb. 22, 2026
Fame Fine Arts, Zürich, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Kristian Suvatne Augland, Elvira Baettig, Aldo Brandenburg, Aljosa Erakovic, Einar Mølmann Fuglem, Ray Hegelbach, Kara Kaiser, Ferdinand Kalfoss, Sveta Mordovskaya, Moselle, Hallvard Nuland, Vincent Schmid Skretteberg, Medjid Sopi, Albert Steiner, Marina Sula, Martin Sæther

Alien, 2026
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
31 x 39 cm

Next page:

Exceeder, 2026
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
54x38cm





VIENNACONTEMPORARY 2025
Sept. 3rd – Sept. 9, 2025
Presented by City Galerie Wien, Vienna

Works by Virginia Ariu, Fabienne Audéoud, Stefania Batoeva, Xenia Bond,
Karolin Braegger, Juliet Carpenter, Zoë Field, Helena Huneke

All Mutated Forms, 2025
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
31 x 39 cm





EXERCISES OF ABSTRACTION

June 7 - Aug. 15, 2025

Sentiment, Zurich, CH

Secret Twins, 2025

Wood, magazine clippings, varnish,
primer, vinyl glue
64 x 58.5 x 30 cm

Secret twins, 2025

Wood, magazine clippings, varnish,
primer, vinyl glue
40 x 42 x 23 cm

Photo credits: Philipp Rupp / Julien Gremaud









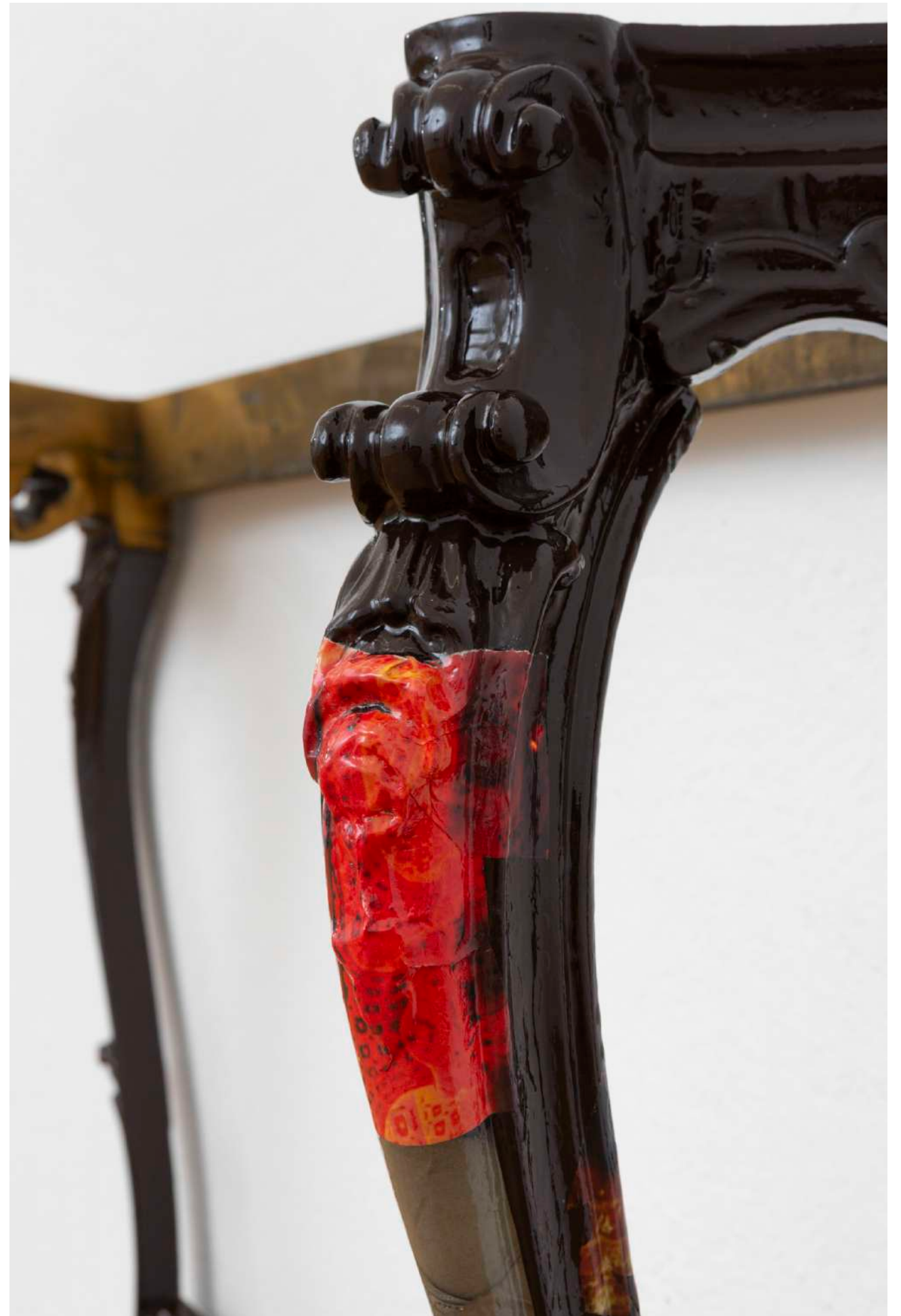




Previous page:

What beast should I adore, 2025
Wood, magazine clippings, varnish,
primer, vinyl glue
84 x 116 x 30.5 cm

Detail





Serenade, 2025
Wood, magazine clippings, varnish,
primer, vinyl glue
82.6 x 76 x 30 cm



MIART 2025
April 3–6, 2025
Fiera Milano, Milan

Duo booth with Olivia Coeln presented by City Gallery Wien

Peace Sells but Who Is Buying?, 2025
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
37.4 x 30.5 cm

Chi Cerca Trova, 2025
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
23.2 x 29.4 cm

Installation view at Miart, Milan.

Risk Appetite, 2025
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
87.6 x 40.4 cm













Flash Crash, 2025
Newspaper crops, Polaroids, framed
37.4 x 30.5 cm

PRETTY PEOPLE

Dec. 14 – Feb. 23, 2025

Windhager von Kaenel, Zug, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Sveta Mordovskaya and Peter Wächtler

Tongue's Product: the Ultimate Backstage Pass, the New Priesthood, 2023

Newspaper crops, polaroid

33,7 x 26,4 cm

Next pages:

Futures, 2023

Magazine crops, Polaroids, tape

29.4 x 31.5cm

Reminiscences of a Stock Operator, 2023

Magazine crops, Polaroids, printed paper, tape

30.4 x 19.8cm







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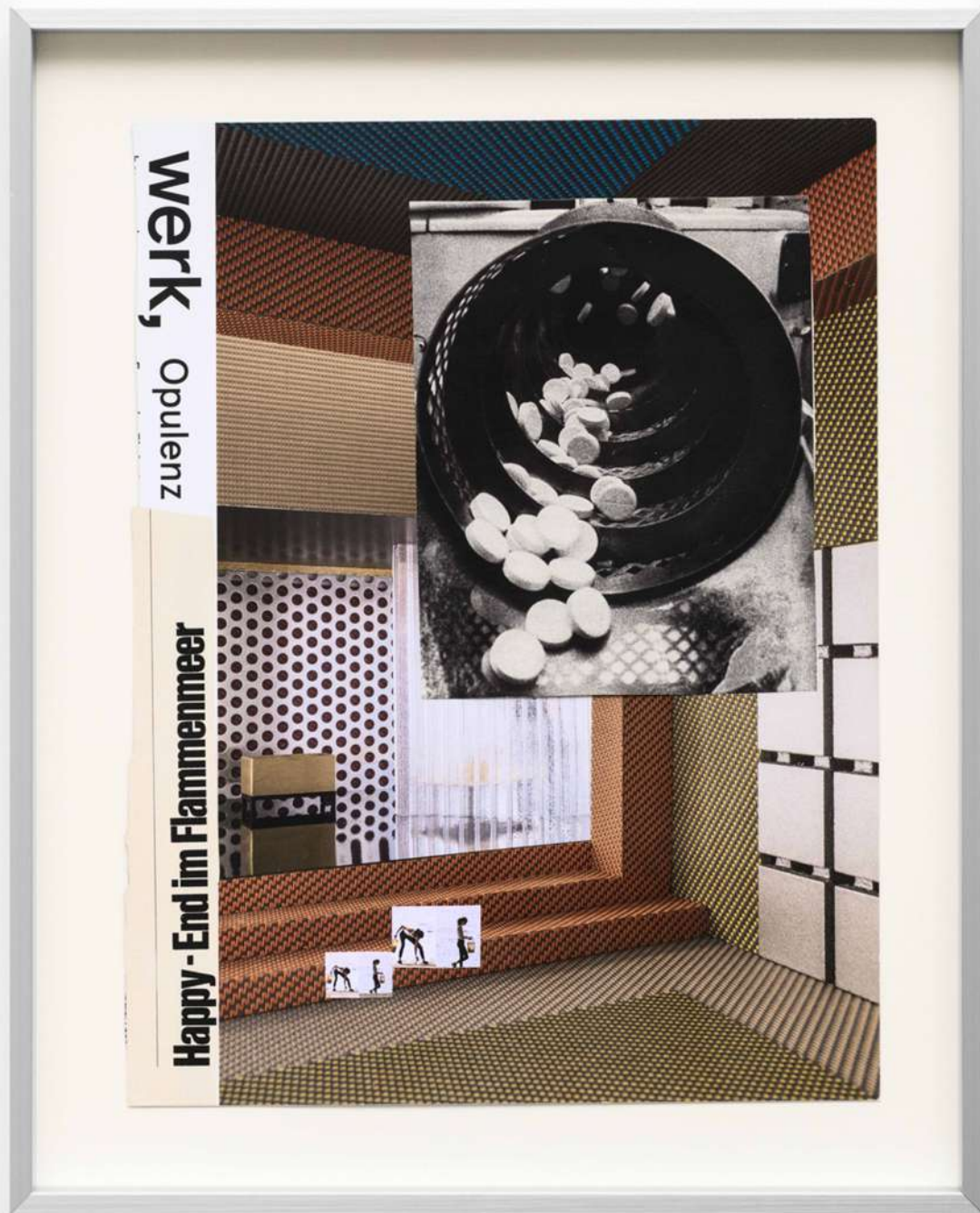
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Double-Blinder, 2023
Magazine crops, printed paper, tape
29.7 x 22.7cm

EVERYTHING TENDS TO ASCEND (PART ONE)

June 21 – Sept 1st, 2024

Società Interludio, Turin, IT

Works by Virginia Ariu, Luisa Brandelli, Francesco João, Gabriel Kuri

Curated by Francesco João

Gate, 2018

Cables, zip ties and wood

295 x 140 x 50 cm

Photo credits: Stefano Mattea





WHAT’S GOT INTO ME
June 5 - August 15, 2024
City Galerie Wien, Vienna, AT

Holistic Jumps I, 2024
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight II, 2024
Inkjet print on glossy paper
120×90 cm

Holistic Jumps II, 2024
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

Holistic Jumps III, 2024
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

Transit, 2023
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight I, 2024
Inkjet print on glossy paper
90×120 cm

Wheeling, 2024
Framed Polaroids (3x)

The Admiral, 2023
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight III, 2024
Inkjet print on glossy paper
120×90 cm

SchizoHermeneutics, 2023
Framed Polaroid, variable dimensions

Traded Pawn, 2023
Oil on Canvas
10×10 cm

Describe It, Fix It and Modify It, 2024
Polaroids
7×4 cm (2x)

At Times the Real Was Daylight V, 2024
Inkjet print on glossy paper
120 × 90 cm

Holistic Jumps IV, 2024
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

Holistic Jumps V, 2024
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

At Times the Real Was Daylight VI, 2024
Inkjet print on glossy paper
90×120 cm

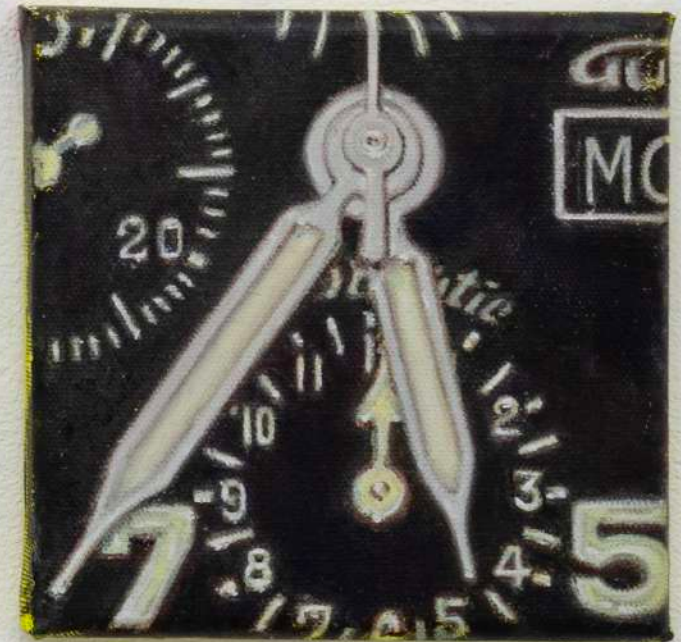
A Bit Less of Gravity, 2023
Oil on Canvas
15×15 cm

Sublimation (in My Time of Need), 2023
Oil on Canvas
10×10 cm

Distorted Mind, 2023
Oil on Canvas
10×10cm























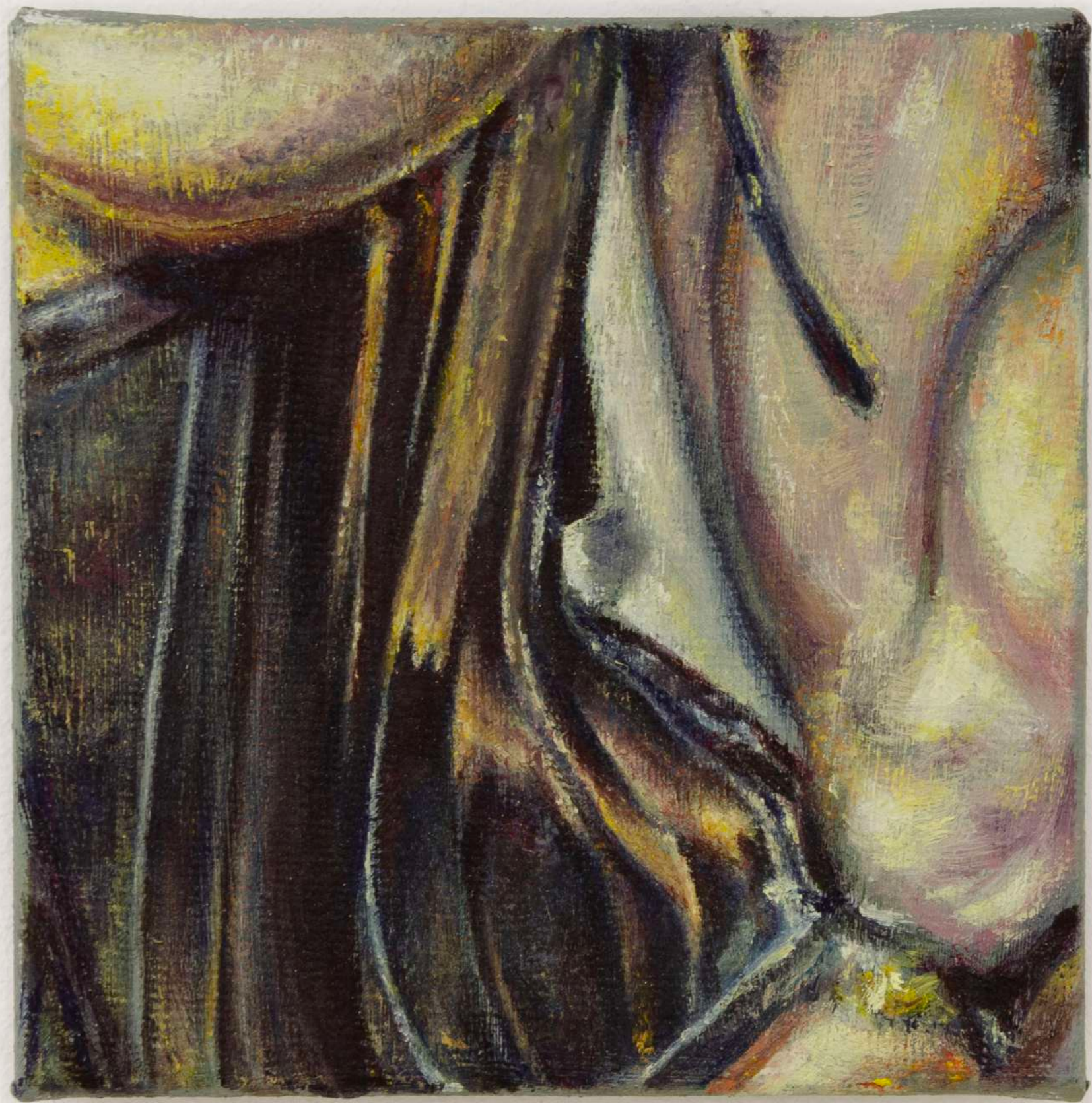












WHAT WHERE / WAS WO
with Vittorio Santoro
April 27 - May 25, 2024
Lighthouse, Zürich, CH

Yet Another Form, 2024
Inkjet print on satin photo paper (2x)
122x90 cm





BUREAU BOLLITO
Jan. 15 – Dec. 20, 2024
Robert Walser Zentrum, Bern, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Peter Fischli, Lisa Hoever, Fabian Marti, Annina Matter,
Ivan Mitrovic, Emanuel Rossetti

Curated by Reto Sorg and Urs Zahn

The Office Was Completely Green with Malicious Joy, a Piercing Green, 2023
Oil on canvas
15x15 cm

Unambiguous Demand, 2023
Oil on canvas
10x10 cm (2x)



EMOZIONALE 3 PART 2
Sept. 23 – Oct. 15, 2023
City Galerie Wien, Vienna, AT

Works by Virginia Ariu, Stefania Batoeva, Xenia Bond, Billy Coulthurst, Olivia Coeln, Zoë Field, Evan Jose, Jared Madere, Emmanuel Troy

Old Skin New Skin, 2023
Newspaper crops, Polaroid, pigments and oil on canvas
33 x 36.4 cm

Installation view, works by Virginia Ariu (left) and Evan Jose (right)

Installation view, works by Virginia Ariu (left) and Stefania Batoeva (right)

Maschines Gegen den Tod, 2023
Newspaper crops, polaroid, pigment on canvas
62.7 x 37.2 cm









Ein Bericht von Volkward E. Strauß

Maschinen gegen den Tod

OPEN STUDIOS

July 20, 2023

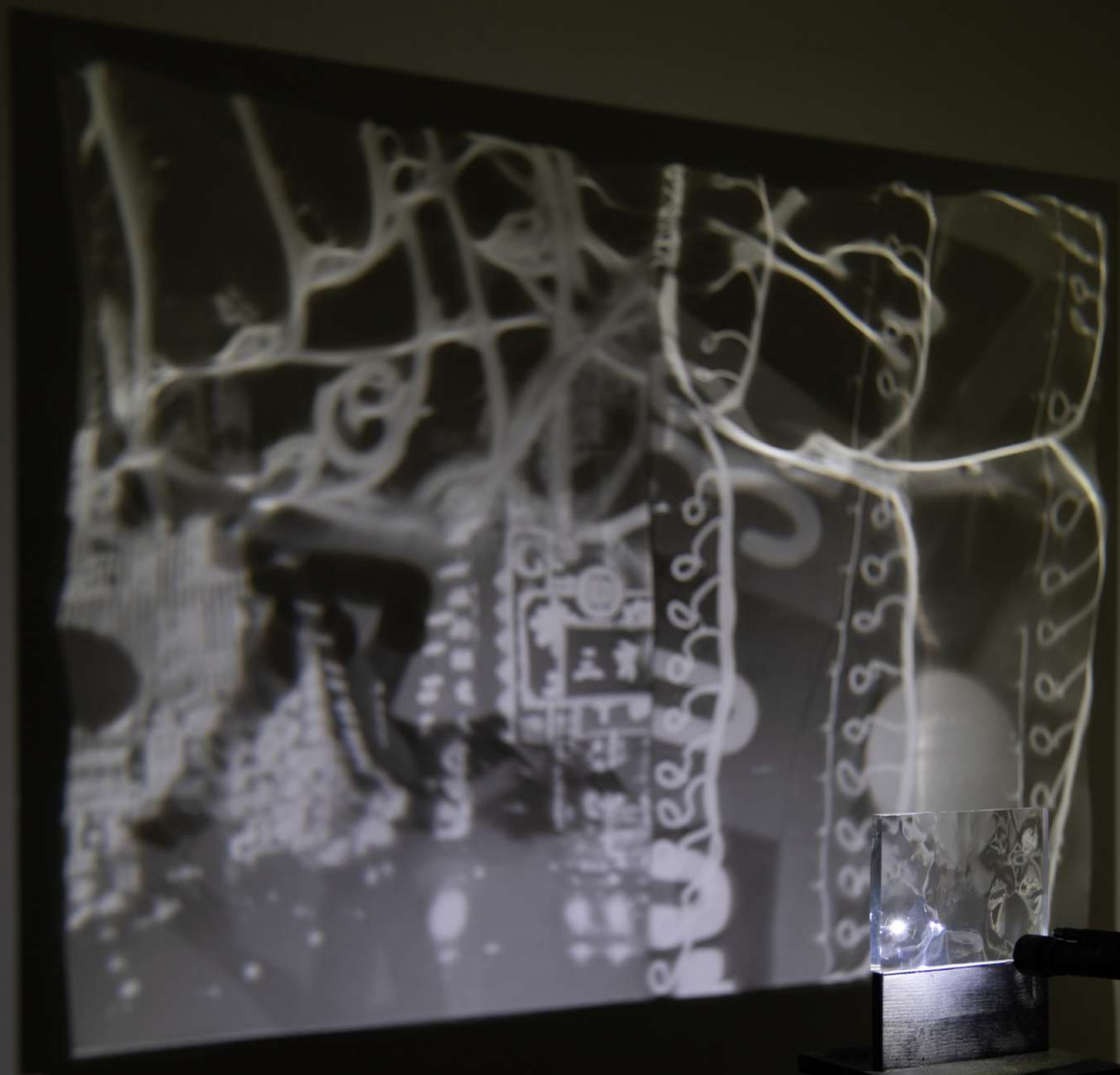
La Becque, La Tour-de-Peilz, CH

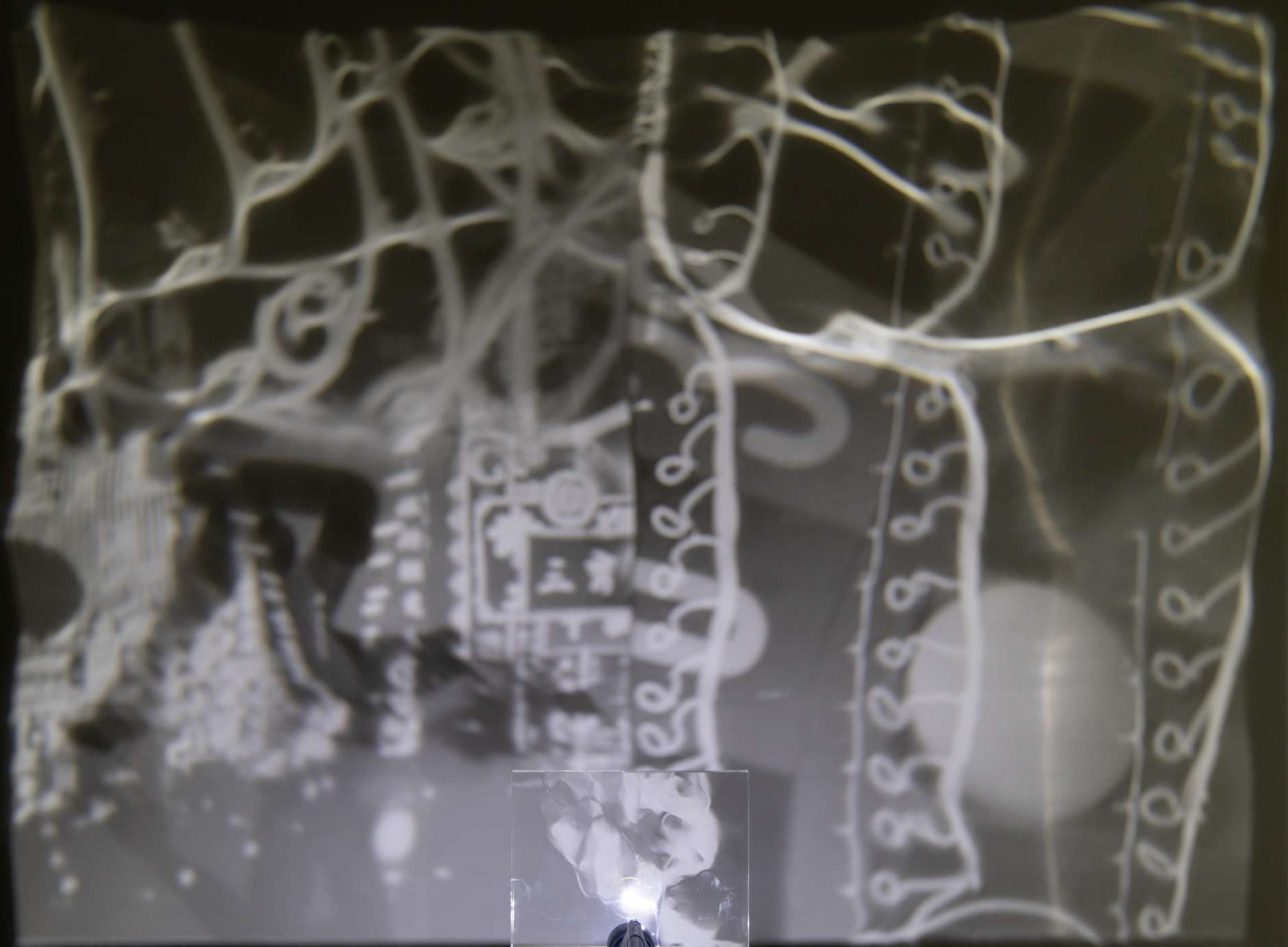
Works by Virginia Ariu, Ellen Arkbro & Marcus Pal, Esra Elfeky, Florian Hecker,
Nicole L'Huillier, Hanne Lippard, Zinzi Minott, Davi Pontes

Not Yet Titled, 2023

3D shaped Plexiglas caustic lens, LED flashlight
20x15 cm

Credits: La Becque, photo Aurélien Haslebacher





“ It is true that a software cannot exercise its powers of lightness except through the weight of hardwares. But it’s the software that gives orders, acting on the outside world and on machines that exist only as functions of the software and evolve so that they can work out ever more complex programs. The second industrial revolution, unlike the first, does not present us with such crushing images as rolling mills and molten steel, but with “bits” in a flow of information traveling along circuits in the form of electronic impulses. The iron machines still exist, but they obey the orders of weightless bits. Is it legitimate to turn to scientific discourse to find an image of the world that suits my view?

*[...] The **De Rerum Natura** of Lucretius is the first great work of poetry in which knowledge of the world tends to dissolve the solidity of the world, leading to a perception of all that is infinitely minute, light, and mobile. Lucretius set out to write the poem of physical matter, but he warns us at the outset that this matter is made up of invisible particles. He is the poet of physical concreteness, viewed in its permanent and immutable substance, but the first thing he tells us is that emptiness is just as concrete as solid bodies. Lucretius’ chief concern is to prevent the weight of matter from crushing us. Even while laying down the rigorous mechanical laws that determine every event, he feels the need to allow atoms to make unpredictable deviations from the straight line, thereby ensuring freedom both to atoms and to human beings. ”*

Italo Calvino, *Six Memos For The Next Millenium*, trans. Patrick Creagh, Harvard University Press, 1988

When light refracts through a curved surface, it concentrates into bright patches known as caustics. This phenomenon, visible in the movement of water and light, is the basis of caustic projection. In contemporary caustic design, computational algorithms use this principle to manipulate the surface of an object so that, through refraction, an image appears. To do so, a computer algorithm calculates different parameters: the tridimensional surface from an image, the position of the light and the focal distance to the light image. Once these three elements are defined and it’s possible to specify where they are in the space, the software finds an ideal configuration to realise the image. Then, through the use of an algorithm, the software changes the generator (the object), so the light coming from the source gets redirected to the receiver (for instance a wall), gathering these information into an image. The image, calculated for one specific configuration of light, object, and position of the image, is then reproduced around this configuration: when moving away from this ideal configuration, the image slowly warps and disappears.

The research initiated at La Becque employs caustic design in the creation of sculptural-photographic hybrids, drawing parallels to one of Italo Calvino’s books, **Six Memos for the Next Millennium** (1988). In the book, the writer considers the virtues of lightness, in his view one of literature’s most significant qualities, and envisions how to project them into the future. The work presented at the Open Studios elaborates a visual transposition of Calvino’s literary understanding of lightness, encompassing both aspects of the term: luminescence and weight subtraction.

In the first memo, **Lightness**, Calvino imagines an era in which “weightless bits” travel along circuits as electronic impulses in an information flow. Following this principle, the project employs the technology developed by Rayform, a spin-off of the EPFL, which created a computer algorithm able to generate light shaping surfaces. Like a dream of dematerialisation rebooted for a cyberspatial era, the work is itself a note, or preliminary draft, for the creation of a modern analogy of the **Allegory of the Cave** in an age of computer-generated images. The project presents an oneiric dimension where the cave becomes a fictional universe that discards continuity to re-shape its characters, plot-lines and backstory from zero. Where images, similarly to refractions, dissipate in rippled patterns as if they were adjacent to water.

DIDACTIC POETRY

June 1st – Sept. 23, 2023

Galerie Kirchgasse, Steckborn, CH

Works by Virginia Ariu, Jean-Luc Blanc, Andrea Celeste La Forgia & Max Fletcher, Costanza Candeloro, Thomas Hesse, Elza Javakhishvili, Peter Kamm, Sarah Lehnerer, Birgit Megerle, Angelbert Metoyer, Mathis Pfäffli, Matthias Sohr, Megan Francis Sullivan, Anna Zacharoff

Organized by Anne Gruber, Philipp Schwalb and Stephan Steiner

Exercise No. 1 (Didactic), 2007

Pencil on paper, coloured paper,
48.8x34.5 cm

Exercise No. 2 (Poetry), 2007

Pencil on paper, coloured paper,
49.8x35 cm

Geld (Labor), 2023

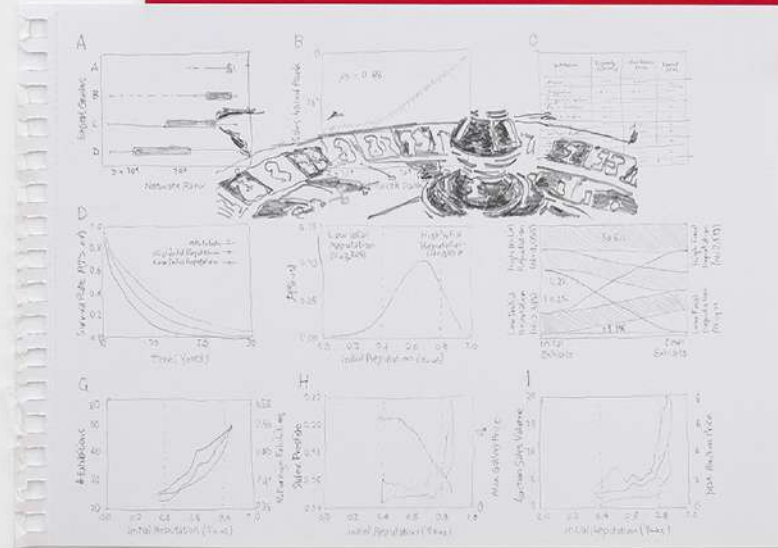
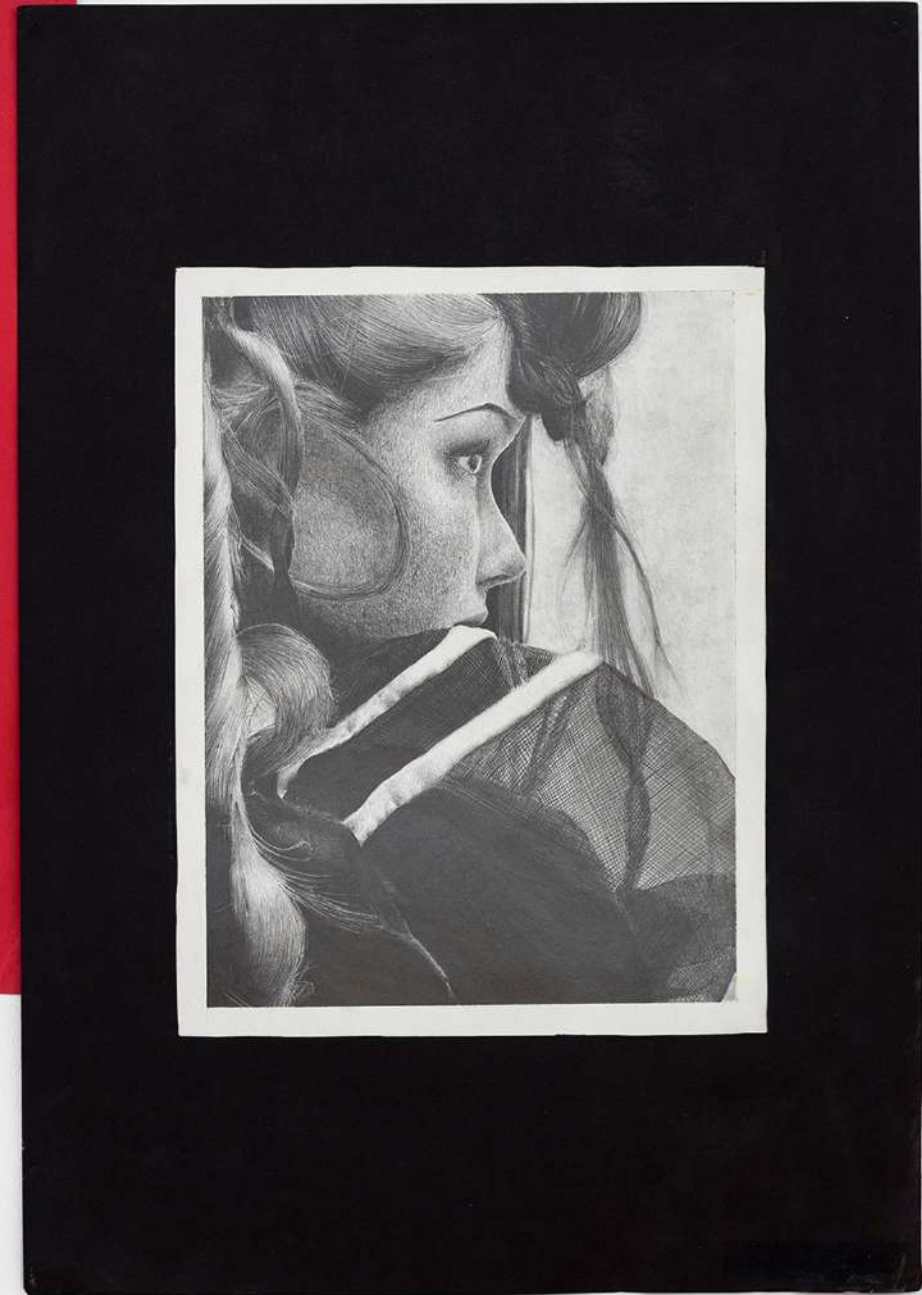
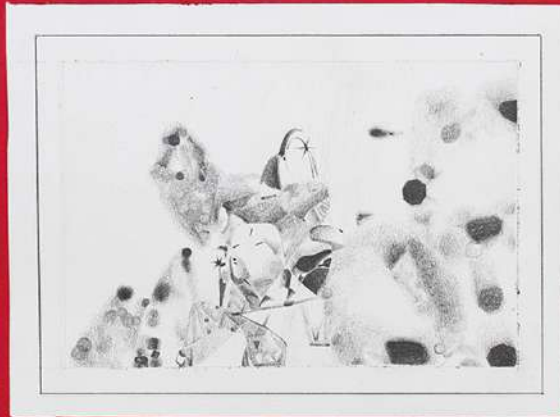
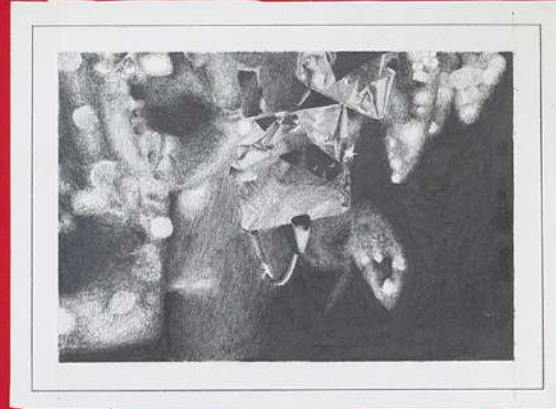
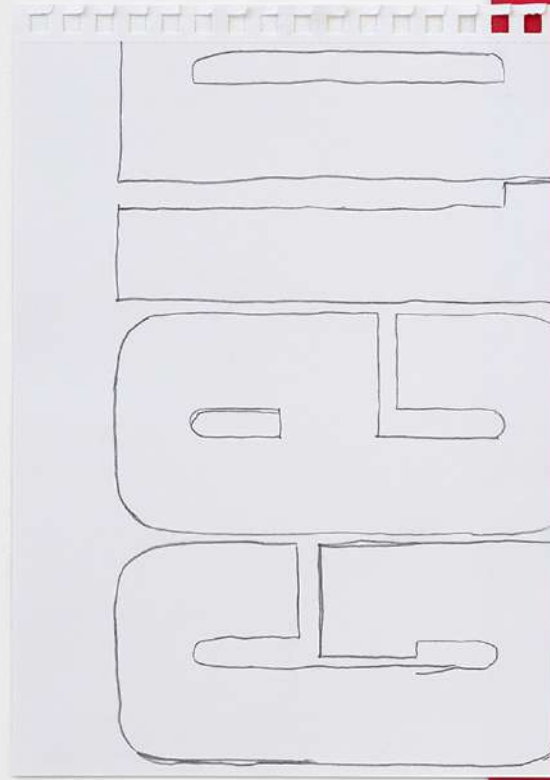
Pencil on paper,
29.8x21 cm

Quantifying Reputation and Success in Art (Gallery), 2023

Pencil on paper,
29.8x21 cm

Credits: Galerie Kirchgasse, photo Cedric Mussano





"In areas of human activity where performance is difficult to quantify in an objective fashion, reputation and networks of influence play a key role in determining access to resources and rewards. To understand the role of these factors, Fraiberger et al. reconstructed the exhibition history of half a million artists, mapping out the coexhibition network that captures the movement of art between institutions. Early access to prestigious central institutions offered life-long access to high-prestige venues and reduced dropout rate. By contrast, starting at the network periphery resulted in a high dropout rate, limiting access to central institutions." ¹

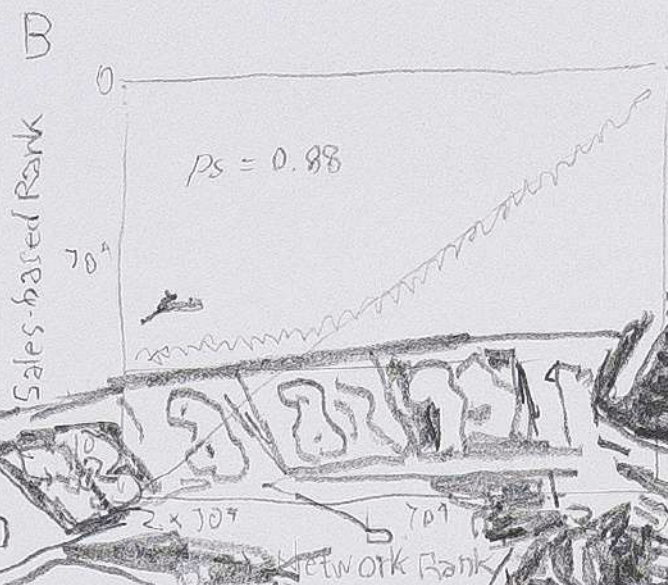
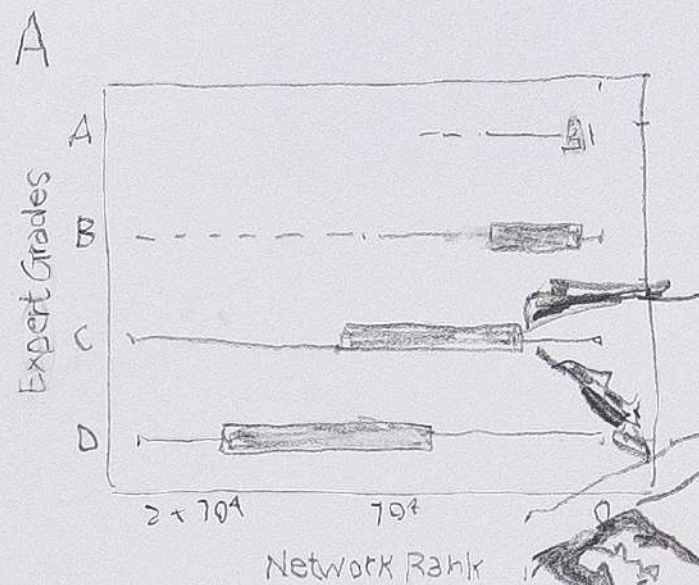
In the exhibition **Didactic Poetry**, participating artists are invited to present four drawings on their personal understandings of pedagogy, labor, poetry, and gallery. The drawing **Quantifying Reputation and Success in Art** presents an insight into the word "gallery", where models illustrated in the homonymous paper are reproduced. The graphics track and predict the career trajectory of individual artists, highlighting the history dependence of valuation in art relative to a network of galleries and institutions.

The drawing **Geld** ("money" in German) underlines the economical denotation of the word. In a market economy, labor is typically exchanged for wages or salaries and constitutes the monetary compensation for workers' time and effort. For many creatives, labor compensation from other professional activities represents a way to further sustain the costs of art making.

The drawing **Exercise N. 1** presents a retrospective look at the field of pedagogy and possible correlations to future artistic developments. Made in the early years of secondary education, the drawing is the result of a school assignment which contains the potential to inform future works.

Exercise N. 2 is part of the same educational practice. Also made in 2007, it can be intended as a subliminal exercise of early identification, where the time lapse both determines the distance from an early artistic persona and possible aesthetic developments over time.

¹ Samuel P. Fraiberger, Roberta Sinatra, Magnus Resch, Christoph Riedl, Albert-László Barabási, *Quantifying Reputation and Success in Art*, Science, Vol 362, Issue 6416 pp. 825-829, 2018



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Artists	Expert Grade	Max. Gallery Price	Expert Grade
Mona	A	2.0	A
Borghese	A	2.0	A
Borghese Bellini	A	2.0	A
Pace Gallery	A	2.0	A
David Lauder	A	2.0	A
Wittman	A	2.0	A
Galleria Continua	A	2.0	A
Carri	A	2.0	A
...	...	...	...

