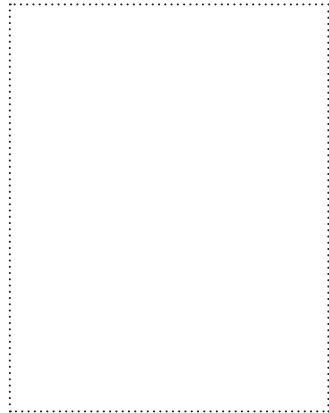
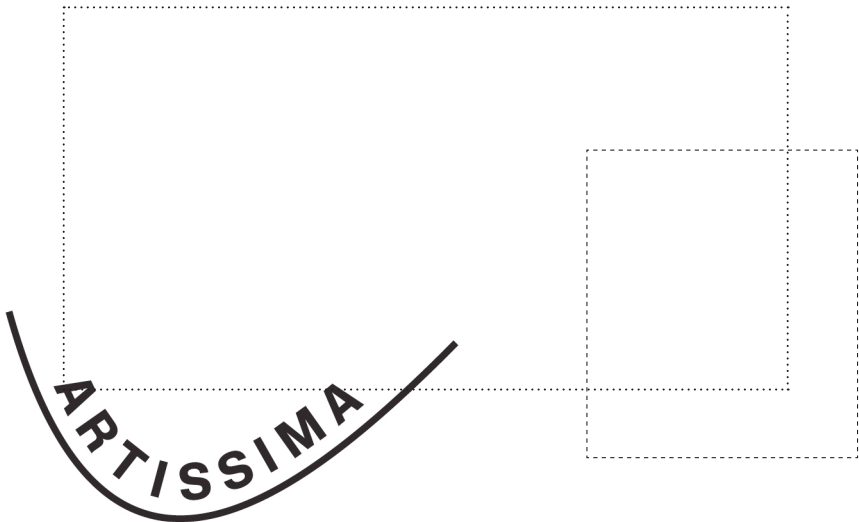
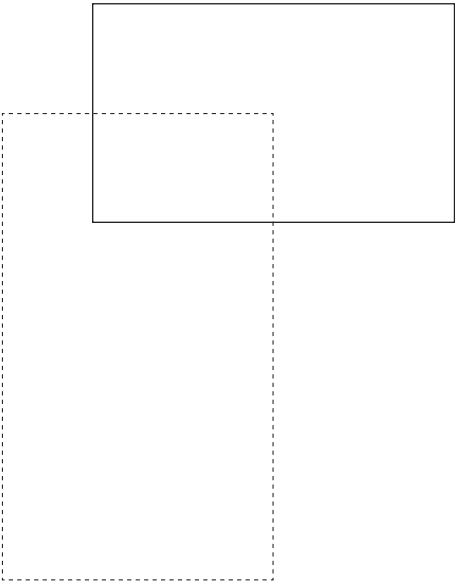


GALERIE VON
& VON



For this year's Artissima / Present Future section we are presenting the young emerging artist Sophia Mainka, who currently holds a residency fellowship at the Cité internationale des Arts in Paris.

The displayed artworks at the fair consist of her series of works „Habit Loss“ and „Trophées“.

Her work „Habit Loss“ includes a total of three video sculptures that address a new relationship between humans and other living beings. In a post-anthropocene thinking it is important to see the human being as a biological species of a world community of all things and living beings and to abolish the dualism of human being and environment. Neither does this place humans at the top of the hierarchy, nor does it view nature as a sacred antagonist. In the Anthropocene, according to Rosi Bradidotti (Posthumanism, 2013), three types of communal coexistence between humans and other species are distinguished - the friendly Oedipal (the „other“ as friend*, companion*), the instrumental (the „other“ as food or aid), the fantastic (the „other“ as projection for fantasies and taboos). Each of the three video sculptures stands for one of these relationships and can be read as a tombstone or monument for precisely these. If humans are seen as animals, these relationship patterns become invalid and an interspecific coexistence can be rethought.

For Artissima, we focus on two video sculptures from „Habit Loss“. „Habit Loss 1“ shows the animal (or the other) as a projection of desires and taboos. On the video you can see fantastic animal creatures from different house entrances in Munich and Paris. They serve as a deterrent to the outside world and thus as protection for the occupant. The screen, lined with floral patterned furniture silhouettes, refers to flowers and nature, which are often used as a stylized decorative element at home. In both cases, one encounters the domesticated, or humanized, nature into which we project our own views. The sculpture itself becomes a fantasy creature through the ceramic paws. The work „Habit Loss 2“ thematizes the animal (or the other) as farm animal or food. In the video, a family is seen preparing and eating snails. These are traditionally bought in a can, then put back into the snail shells for preparation, and then taken out again for consumption. Again, floral patterns can be found on the embroidered tablecloth. On the metal mold are shell objects made of ceramic, which at the same time remind us of the French pastry madeleine. Winged objects attached to the outside also turn this sculpture into a living creature.

Complementing the content of the video sculptures, we show wall works from the series „Trophées“. Here the artist Mainka deals with the theme of the trophy and the associated questions about the relationship between man and nature, the representation of power and values of a society, as well as the (fantastic) possibilities of a post-anthropocene. The wall objects deal with the concept of the trophy, the focus here is on the classical hunting trophy. Hunting as a still classically male connoted domain, traces the attempt to subjugate nature, to bring it tamed into the house, to triumph over it.

Sophia Mainka's work addresses philosophical discourses and relevant social currents as well as future trends. In doing so, she works with a variety of materials and media, which she combines in room-filling installations that can be walked on. Materiality, surface and design are thereby both an analysis of a middle-class aesthetic and an expression of a sculptural exploration of sculpture. The starting point of Sophia Mainka's artistic practice is her great interest in living space and the (partly permeable) border between interior and public space; security, home, and living as a milieu study and moment of identification are themes of her artistic research. In doing so, her examination begins with her own positioning and therefore a view from the Western European, suburban middle class, which is directed towards more general questions and the larger social contexts of our time. In her works, the artist explores the complex relationship between people, things and other forms of life, and thus corresponds to this year's Artissima theme RELATIONS OF CARE, as her art can be seen as a tool that creates new forms of understanding reality, allowing for a caring coexistence of all species.



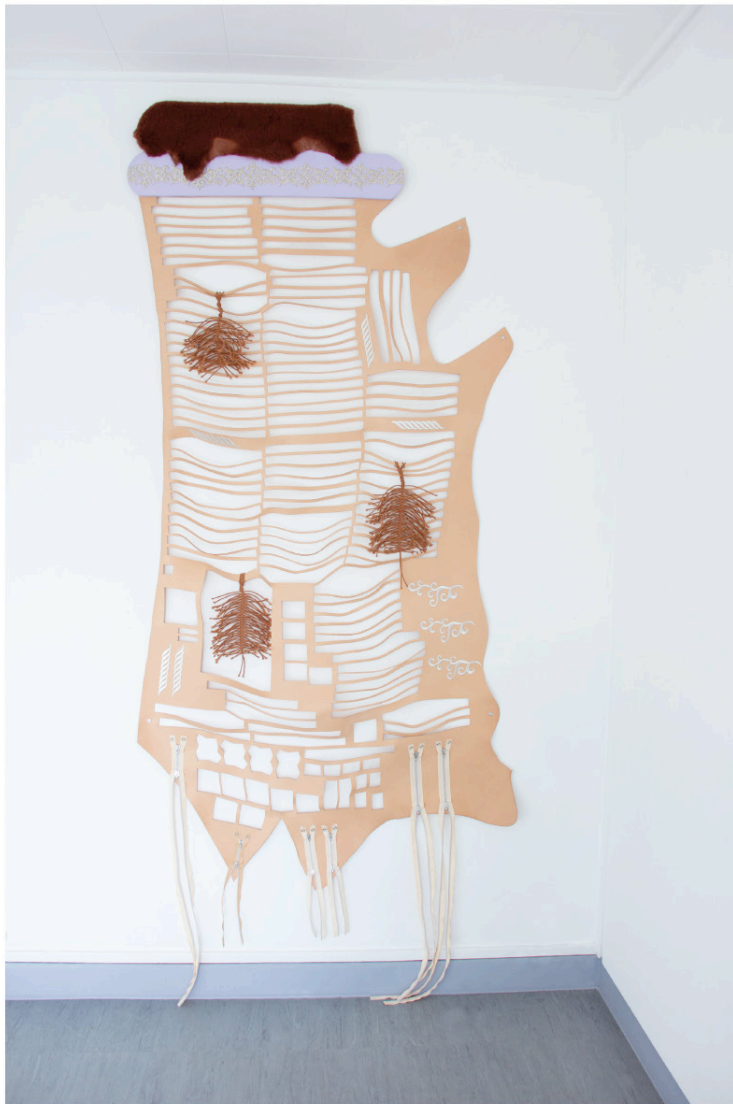
Habit Loss 1 & 2

Year 2023

Habit Loss 1, 105 x 160 x 59cm & Habit Loss 2, 122 x 92 x 90 cm

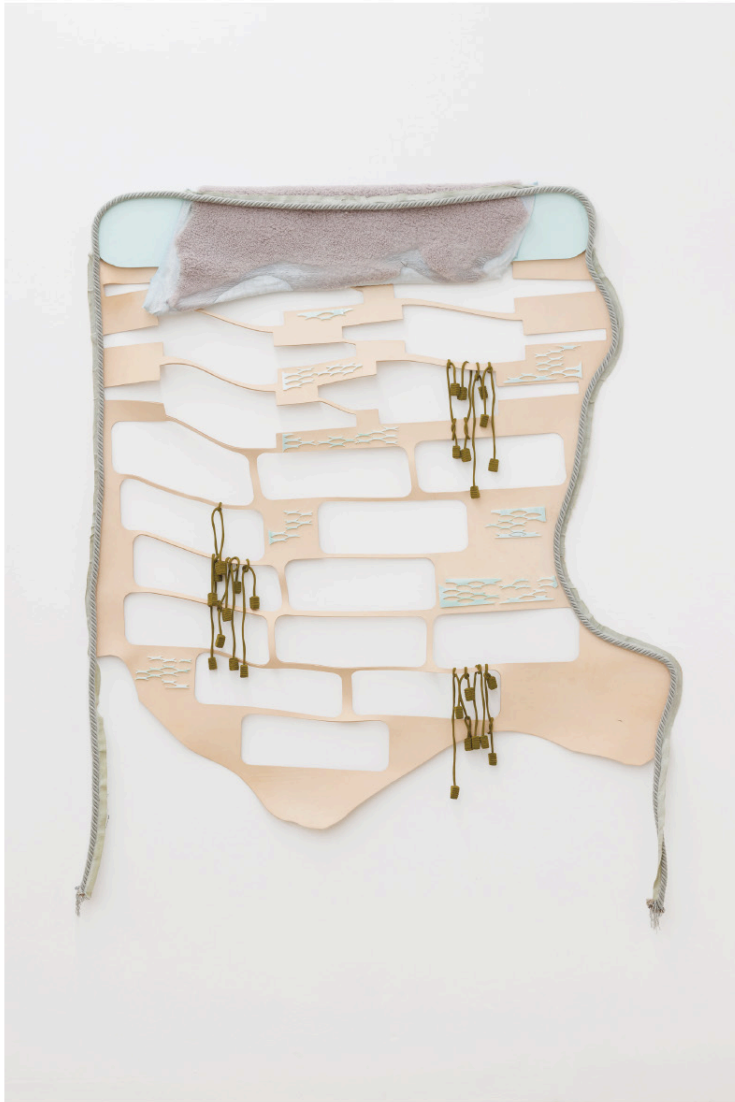
Metal (laser cut), wood, fabric, ceramic (glazed), imitation leather, plastic, video (8.59min, loop, 4K, without sound) & video (5.34min, loop, 4K, without sound)





Trophé I

2023, 260 x 100 x 2 cm, Leather, imitation leather, fabric, glass, zipper, metal, shark tooth, string, yarn, faux fur, wood, plastic



Trophé II

2023, 106 x 120 x 2 cm, Leather, imitation leather, fabric, glass, zipper, metal, shark tooth, string, yarn, faux fur, wood, plastic

G A L E R I E V O N & V O N



As an internationally oriented gallery, we have been focusing on diversity since 2012. In close exchange with our artistic positions, as an interdisciplinary team we are breaking new ground to address a young generation of collectors.

With large-scale projects such as the Art Weekend Nuremberg, we have been linking the local art & cultural landscape annually since 2016 in close cooperation with the Neues Museum Nuremberg and the European Capital of Culture 2025 application office and acting as an interface of the more than 25 participants in order to establish the metropolitan region around Nuremberg, a cultural location steeped in history, in the present. By awarding the Playground Art Prize - consisting of a top-class jury, in 2019 among others with Krist Gruijthuijsen, Director of KW Institute in Berlin, in 2020 among others with Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein, Professor at the Institute for Art and Cultural Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and in 2021 among others with Prof. Dr. Alfred Weidinger, Director of the Upper Austrian State Museum - we directly experience the long-term development of young talents and actively recognize, promote and position their innovative ideas and creative impulses in an international context.