

Verena Seibt

Cooperations And Works

My work as an artist takes place in a variety of forms, in creating art works and projects, in curating exhibitions as well as in education.

Dialog and collaboration with other artists is an essential part of my practice. Between 2006 and 2016, I formed an artist duo with Clea Stracke, until starting out own families with kids added new challenges to our permanent coordination. Project-based collaboration continues, for example with Thomas Splett, CASPA HAUSA COLLECTIVE and with students in the context of my teaching job at the art academy (2014–18) or on exhibition projects as part of curatorial teams.

An exploration (social, institutional, historical) of space was central until 2015 in the creation of site-specific installations in museums, galleries and in very often public space: the underground, the (entrance of the) museum, the art school, the countryside, the waiting room, the art gallery, the train, the garbage dump and so on. This entailed intense on-site research, including scanning with a camera or 1:1 remodelling, in order to then fictionalize, reinvent or re-contextualize these places.

Filmic space plays an important role in many of my works. Often seen as a window into another world, here films are brought in to the space by means of other sculptural elements so that they can form a part of the world I/we really live in. I enjoy sharing the same space with an artwork, allowing it to surround me and straightforwardly involve me, so that the work can develop a direct impact through its volume, form, colour, material and quality.

Since 2015, base materials started playing a more dominant role – ceramics, bones, latex, bread, salt paste, textiles, branches – as a stronger focus on social topics such as role models, emotions, societal expectations and clichés evolved; topics drawn from my immediate personal experience and closely connected to my daily life. This very personal approach forms the starting point for extensive research and reading, in order to carry the ordinary to a general level and point out universal conditions. In a third step, while executing or performing my artworks, I again leave gaps, holes and empty spaces for the imaginary and further coincidence.

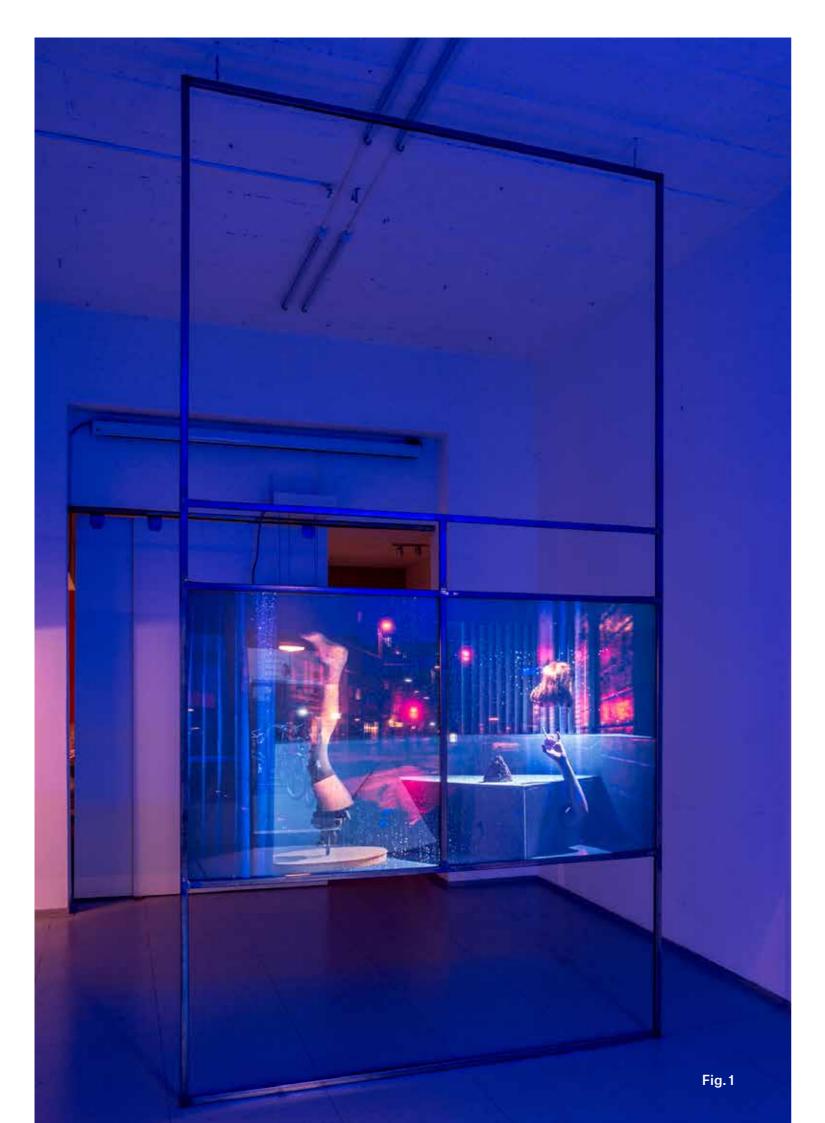


Fig. 1 Installation view, SSZ Süd Fig. 2 Exterior view



Fig. 2

Window Shopper/Fresh Widow, 2015

Collaboration with Malte Bruns Site specific video installation, SSZ Süd, Cologne Steel frame 4.5 × 2.5 m, projector, HD video, 16 min., acrylic glass, light emitting diodes, soundtrack

A steel frame inside the exhibition space of SSZ Süd doubles the exterior window. The video projected on acrylic glass monitors a classic display window presenting the head, arm and leg of a dissembled mannequin. Reflections of lights, raindrops on the window indicate the passing of time. Sporadically viewers can catch movements of the leg adjusting itself, the organic elegance of the hand holding its cigarette or register smoke puffing out from the wig. A remarkably large pile of cigarette ashes has formed beside the hand, indicating a long and lonely wait.



Fig. 3

The Hunters in the Snow, 2016

CASPA HAUSA COLLECTIVE - collaboration with Markus Zimmermann and Marco Bodenstein Site specific interactive installation. Cologne FineArt Contemporary 2016, Flexible foam mats, stretch foil, plastic box, camera, tripod, chewing gum dispensers, pieces of chewing gum, 3D glasses, 8 x 8 m

The installation The Hunters in the Snow allows viewers to retrace the steps of the returning hunters in Pieter Bruegel's landscape, as they walk across the squishy black PU-mattresses on the ground. Tree-like sculptures are gum dispensers offering colourful distraction. Now I'm going into the birch forest, because my pills will be kicking in soon (Martin Kippenberger). Invited to take a rest and some chewing gum, they can sit masticating while a virtual 3D landscape unfolds before their eyes built out of blown up chewed gum chunks. The lull of a voiceover cites descriptions of architecture, buildings, landscapes, cultures and cities that no longer exist or symbolize decay.



Fig. 2



/R Video still

ig. 4 VR Video still



Text fragments by Bruno Taut, Walter Gropius. Alfred Kubin, Thea von Harbou:

> "Realm: the Crumbling. It affected everything. The buildings of such different materials, the objects that had been brought together over the years, all the things the Master had spent his money on were doomed. Cracks appeared in all the walls at once, wood rotted, iron rusted, glass went cloudy, cloth fell to pieces. Precious objets d'art succumbed to an irresistible inner decay without apparent reason." Alfred Kubin, The Other Side

"[His] eyes wandered over Metropolis, a restless roaring sea with a surf of light. In the flashes and waves, the Niagara falls of light, in the colourplay of revolving towers of light and brilliance, Metropolis seemed to have become transparent. The houses, dissected into cones and cubes by the moving scythes of the search-lights gleamed, towering up, hoveringly, light flowing down their flanks like rain. The streets licked up the shining radiance, themselves shining, and the things gliding upon them, an incessant stream, threw cones of light before them." Thea von Harbou, Metropolis

Falsche Rücksichtnahmen, 2017

Site specific video installation, Artothek, Munich MDF bords, stage elements, wooden bars, aluminium poles, photo prints on PVC, tile pattern prints on PVC, wigs, engine, various hoses, ceramic sculpture, dried cattle leg, latex, photo prints of salad leaves, monitor, HD video, 16 min., 10 x 8 x 4 m

Fig. 1 Installation, rear view Fig. 2 Vorhof, sculpture, ceramic enamelled



Fig. 2

Sculptural exploration of gender-specific behaviour set in relation to our animal origins in order to sound out the relationship between man, woman, animal. Gestures and actions, little Red Riding Hood and the big bad wolf, the heterosexual relationship between Splett and Seibt, furries and fish massages... How natural can the artificial be?

"Patterns of heterosexual attraction are set in relation to research into biological instincts, tracking the nucleus of human nature back to its brute foundation, apparently liberated from all cultural evolution. The male drive to hunt prey (aka woman) is revealed in the imitation and skilful mirroring of those creatures that reveal our own origins to us." Dennis Brzek, 2017, translated from German)





"Presented within a complex mixed-media installation that follows shape and functions of an animal compound, the video Doesn't Sound Like Grandma's Voice looks at the biological, animal, and technological origins of gendered cultural behaviour, drawing from the classic European fairy-tale Little Red Riding Hood, where fixed definitions of the body are already put into question, and interaction takes place between generations as well as species. Combining personal videos, staged scenarios, and found footage, the video reimagines the traditional tale as a narrative of continuously inter-transforming characters and properties. Through visual and structural analogies, the video proceeds through quintessential scenes from the story, staging moments of mutation, ingestion, care, excess, intimacy and savagery. By moving between micro and macro scales, and connecting biological processes to technological and social domains, the pair demonstrates moments in daily life where the beastly and cultural are in close contact." Postbrothers, 2018

Fig.1





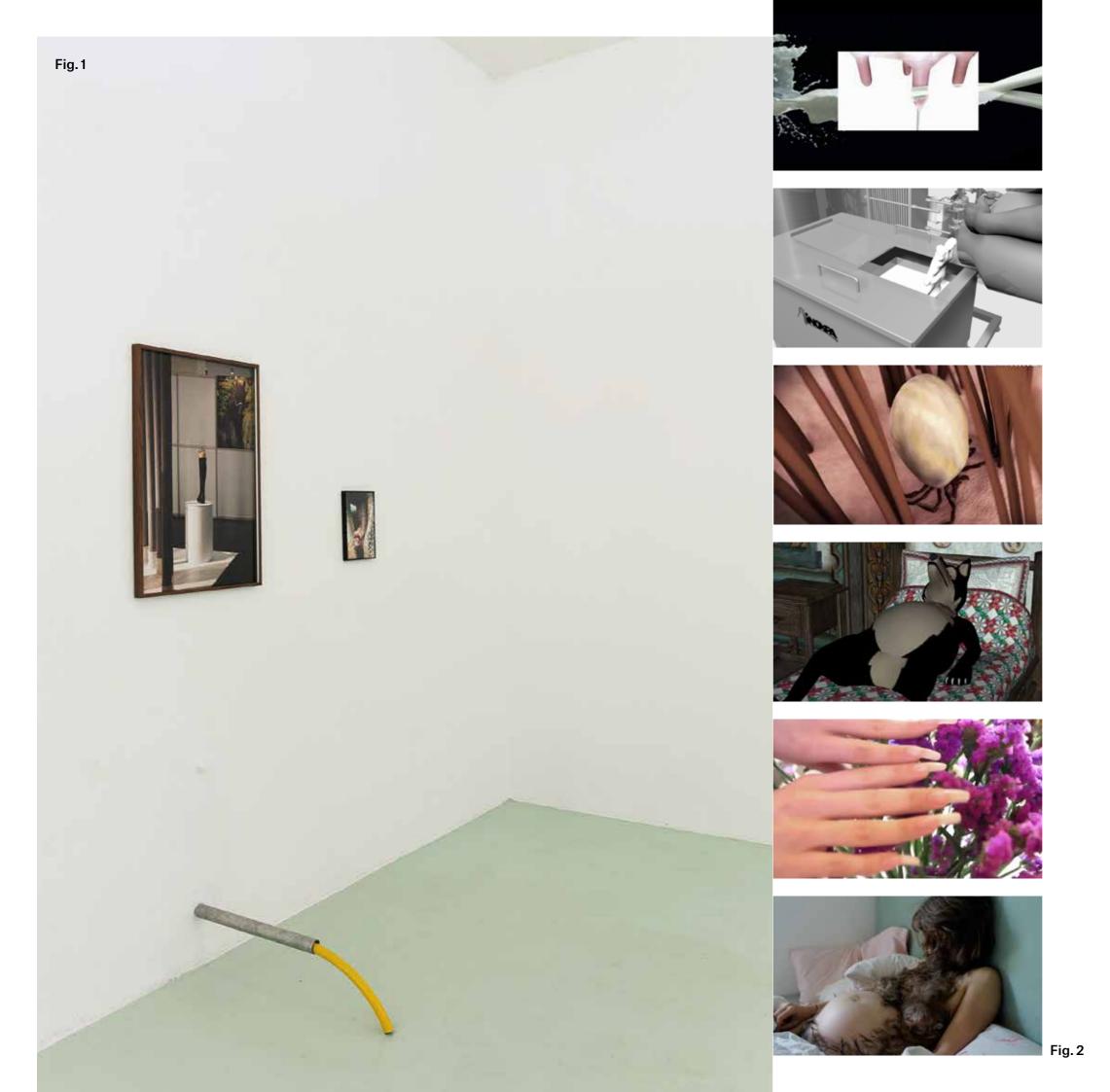


Fig. 1 Exhibtion view
with photographs:
Im Schatten junger
Mädchenblüte and Flower
Fig. 2 Video stills,
Doesn't Sound Like
Grandma's Voice

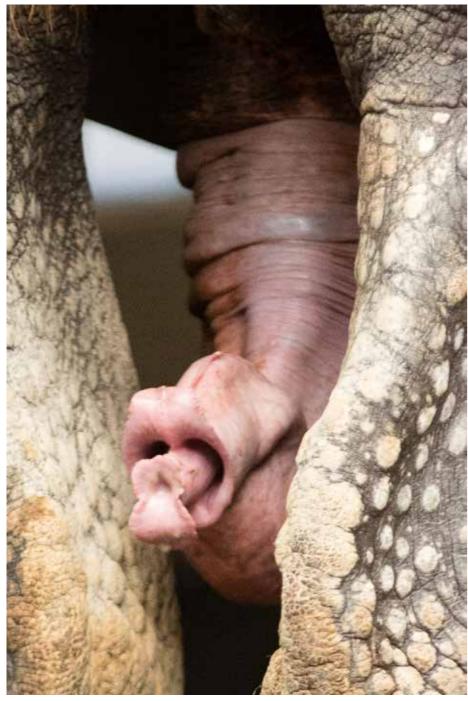


Fig. 1

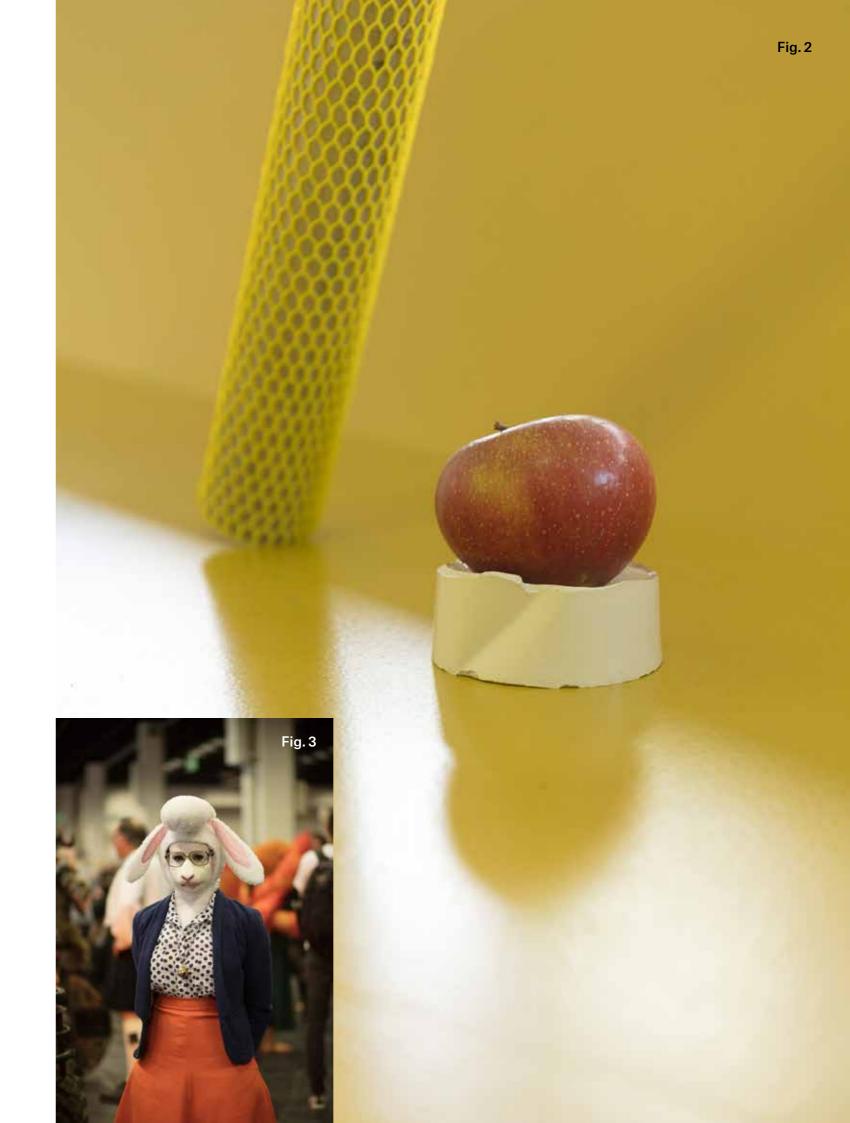


Fig. 1 Flower, photograph
Fig. 2 Close up, installation
Fig. 3 Michael, photograph

La Educación Sentimental (Lehrjahre des Gefühls), 2018

Collaboration with Thomas Splett Window display, S-Bahn Rosenheimerplatz UG Video projection, projection foil, pole system, HD video, 16:9, 7:36 min.

A pair of male hands gently holding and massaging a dead fish on the white terry cloth of a massage table. Is the fish a metaphor for the female sex or are we being asked how far we can stretch our empathy? Further than explaining art to a dead hare... (Joseph Beuys, How to Explain Pictures to a Dead Hare, 1965)



Fig.1

- Fig. 1 Video still, Lehrjahre des Gefühls
- Fig. 2 Installation view, Train station, lock storey
- Fig. 3 Installation view



Fig. 2



Doesn't sound like Grandma's Voice, 2018 Fig. 1 Close up, cage and seats

Collaboration with Thomas Splett Site specific Installation, Gasteig Concrete, wood, latex, HD video, 16 min., iron, bunch of fresh bananas, 3 × 2.5 m

> "Presented within a complex mixed-media installation that follows shape and functions of an animal cage, the video Doesn't Sound Like Grandma's Voice looks at the biological, animal, and technological origins of gendered cultural behaviour, drawing from the classic European fairy-tale Little Red Riding Hood, where fixed definitions of the body are already put into question, and interaction takes place between generations as well as species. Combining personal videos, staged scenarios, and found footage, the video reimagines the traditional tale as a narrative of continuously inter-transforming characters and properties. Through visual and structural analogies, the video proceeds through quintessential scenes from the story, staging moments of mutation, ingestion, care, excess, intimacy and savagery. By moving between micro and macro scales, and connecting biological processes to technological and social domains, the pair demonstrates moments in daily life where the beastly and cultural are in close contact." Postbrothers, 2018









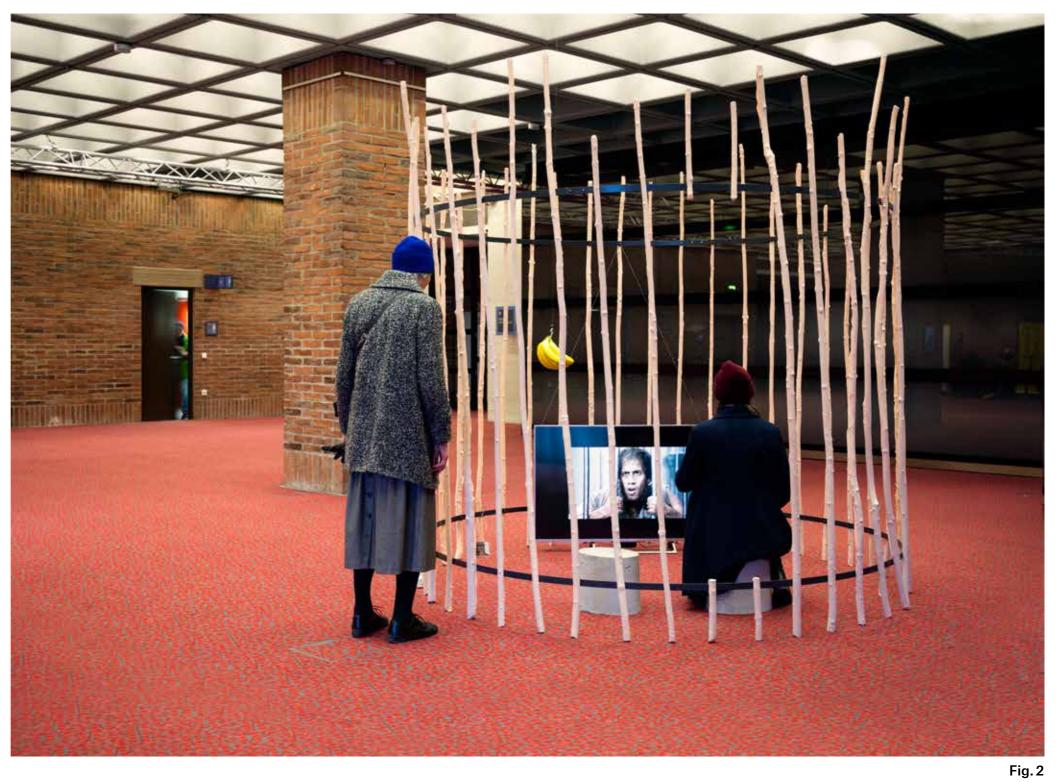


Fig. 1 Video stills, Doesn't Sound Like Grandma's Voice Fig. 2 Installation view, Gasteig





Fig. 2

Barbara, 2018

Showcase 1: Video installation, HD video, 1 min. loop

Peering into the gaps of a flesh-coloured fence passers-by get to peek into the video Barbara, which shows an actress peeing in public behind a car for a fictional movie shot. What seems at first to be a typical peeping tom situation reveals itself as a fake. Barbara is faking her pee. A double-layered empowerment: a woman unfazed by peeing in public and a woman who won't let the viewer get away with a dirty fantasy.

Fig. 1 Installation view

- Fig. 2 Peeping passer-by
- Fig. 3 Peeping views
- Fig. 4 Peeping views



Fig. 4



Wanderers in the Sea of Fog - A Commentary on Mid-20th-Century Anatomy Drawing, 2018

Showcase 2: Sculpture, plaster, ceramic, porcelain enamel

Two alien creatures walking together through a sea of ice floes, tied to each other with red string. They were modelled from an anatomical drawing: a clitoris followed by a penis. Although she is smaller, it seems evident that she should lead the way, her stature conveying more spunk. While her fellow seems quite frazzled simply from bearing his own dis-balanced weight.



Fig. 1

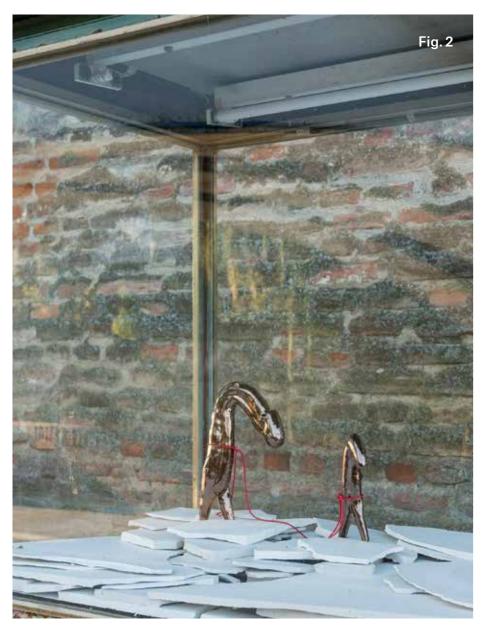


Fig. 1 Danube shore Ulm with showcase

Fig. 2 Sculptures in showcase Fig. 3 Ceramic Wanderers (...)



Auf dem Truppenübungsplatz, 2018

Showcase 3:

Geheuer Blond, 2018 Hairpiece, motor

Reitunterricht auf alter Mähre (Riding Lessons on an Old Mare), 2018 PU-foam, latex, bandage clips

Daisy, 2018
Iron pipe, lattice, ball bearing, clamp,
motor, melon, tension belts, nipple tassel

Fig. 1



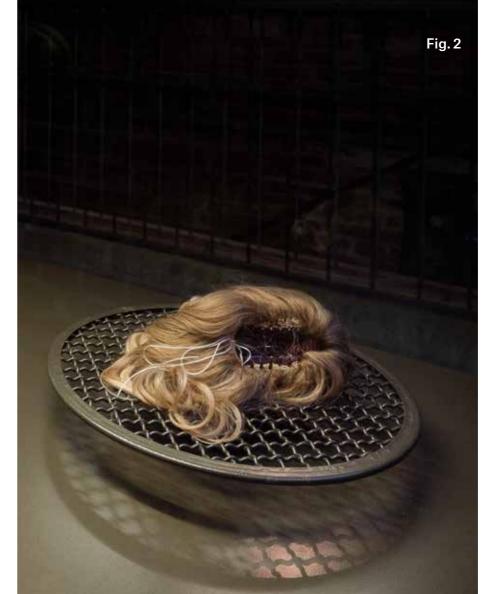


Fig. 3



Fig. 1 Showcase 3:

1 Riding Lessons on an Old

2 Geheuer Blond

3 Daisy

Fig. 2 Geheuer Blond Fig. 3 Daisy in motion

The third showcase titled Auf dem Truppenübungsplatz (at the military training grounds) is based in a seedy bar. The case presents us with three objects arranged on an olive-coloured surface (RAL 6014, the colour of the army vehicles before 1984). Geheuer Blond is a clip-in hair extension wig, which opens and closes its rotary grip revealing a nice mouth with twenty plastic teeth. Riding Lessons on an Old Mare refers to the rite of passage of an inexperienced man being introduced to heterosexual behaviour by an older woman. The horse here is a grumpy latex club. Its form goes back to a mare substitute for sperm extraction in the horse breeding process or a trucker's pussy. Daisy is machine that sets a melon into motion and causes its nipple tassel to twirl. The objects movements are triggered by the barkeeper via remote control, once guests have left a substantial tip.



A.F. / Bug Your Hungry Tongue, 2018

Mixed media installation Studio/Budapest Gallery, Hungary Latex, blanket, PU-foam, jelly boots, tripod, projector, bred, cardboard, flatscreen monitor, carrots, salt dough

A.F. is an installation dedicated to Anna Fohner, whose person and life the artist Verena Seibt tries to grasp from various angles.

"I had grandmother in spirit who was born near Budapest before World War II. Her name was Anna Fohner. After her mother was killed, the pretty young woman fled to Germany with her father. They both started working at my grandfather farm. Anna's father equipped her with the task to stay at my grandmother's side and to support her whatever happens. Perhaps due to having a crippled leg from Polio, she never married, although she was much loved in our rural community. After endless years of cooking and caring for more than one generation, she decided to leave my grandma to live in an old peoples home. I wonder how she looked back on her life and how she felt about not having anything to call her own, after spending her whole life in dedication to an foreign family far away from her initial home."

Verena Seibt



Fig. 1 Close up, A.F. (Part I) Fig. 2 Bred legs

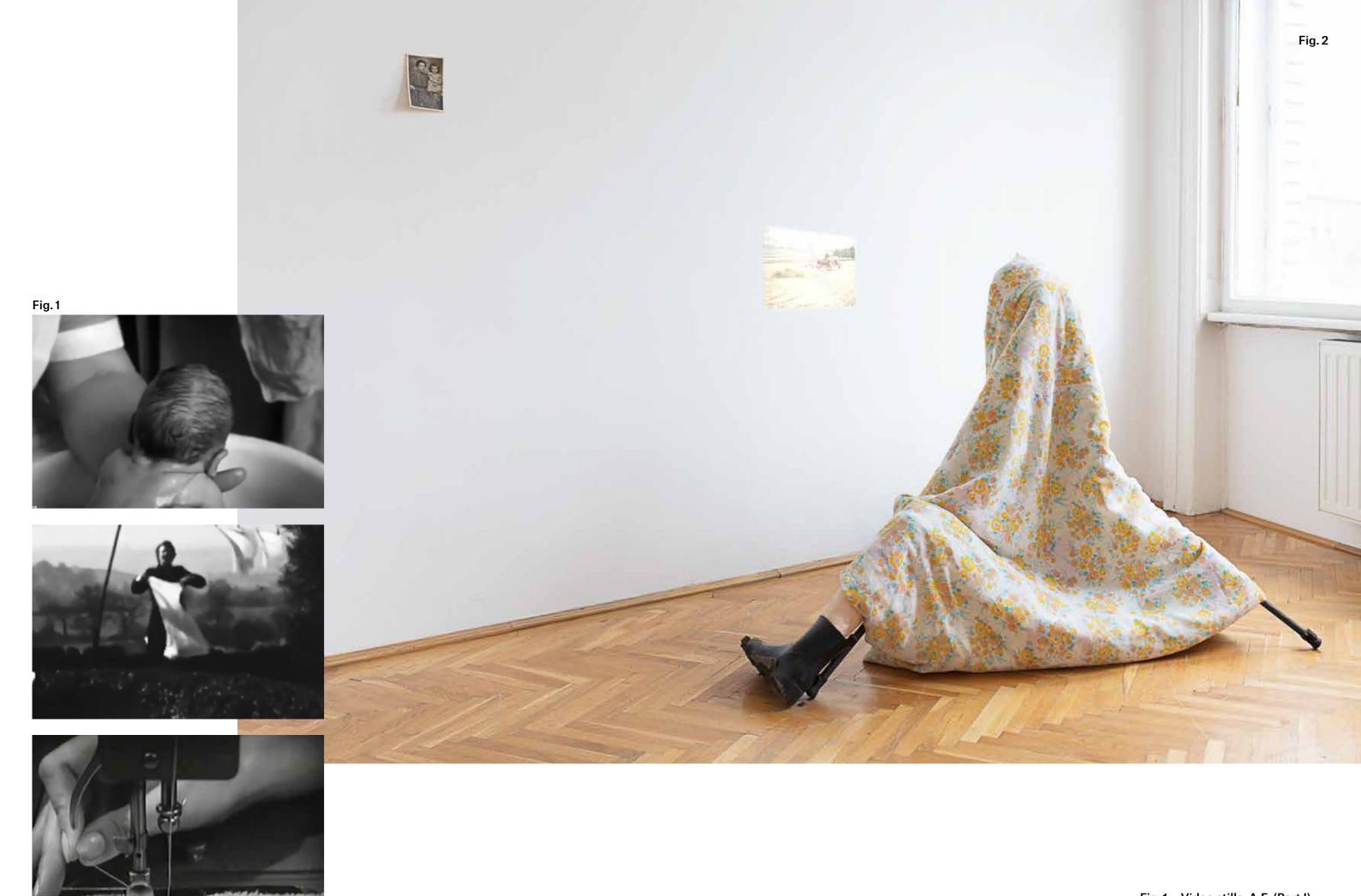


Fig. 1 Video stills, A.F. (Part I)
Fig. 2 Installation view, A.F.
(Part I)





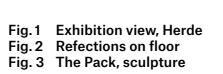
What does Domestic servant mean?

What does Farmhouse mean?

Fig. 3



Fig.1



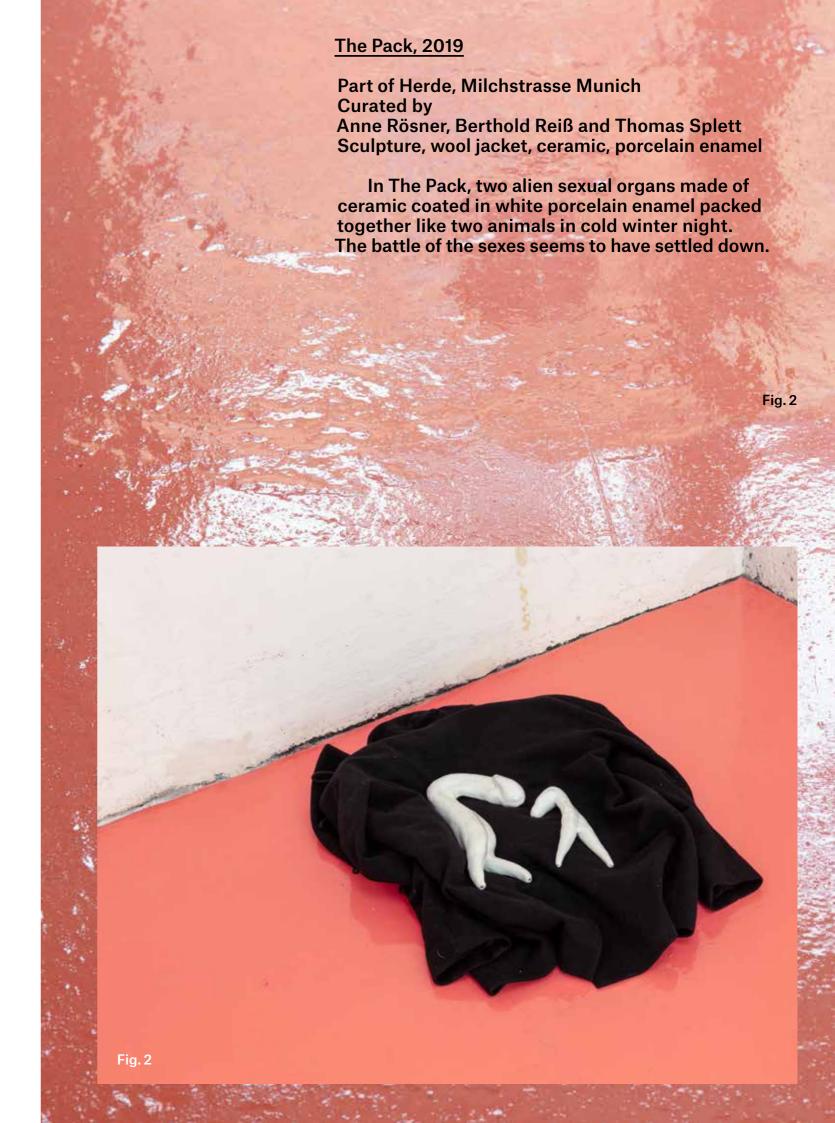






Fig. 2

Fig. 1 Antlitz, close up Fig. 2 Installation view, Antlitz mit Fahne

Antlitz mit Fahne (with Flag), 2019

Video installation, Schafhof Freising Video, projection screen, projector, clay, spray paint

Antlitz is an old German word for face.

A trace in the snow or in the soft ground flews into the mushy soil, always hiding, a shade, a negative imprint of something that is not there anymore. Absence. One of the artist's childhood memories is of accompanying her father or grandfather on a tractor ride... The soft soil clumps up in the tyre profiles, and falls apart and crumbles out as the tractor speeds up back on the road, leaving on the tarmac a positive trace of a tractor that once was.

A cat's tail is a seismograph, a communication system, a snake, a memory.

Power of Punch, 2019

CASPA HAUSA COLLECTIVE - collaboration with Markus Zimmermann and Marco Bodenstein Lecture about ritual and formal laughter Performance with wearable plaster sculptures, bandages, fabric, PU-foam, beach-chairs, flowers, tables, projector and woollen blankets

Power of Punch consists of parts. The first is taking place in a separate special designed moulding studio. The artists individually take moulds noses viewers noses. The second part exists of a lecture performance about the historic practices of laughter and its ritual forms using the characters of Hans Wurst, Kasperl, Punch and Judy and the theory of carnival by Mikhail Bakhtin as a reference as well as nose extensions. Formed at night and stuck on to the plaster-cast noses.

Fig. 1 Collection of participants' nose moldes

Fig. 2 Treatment, nose molding



Fig.1





- Fig. 1 Carnival fools in
 Johannes Lingelbachs
 Carnival in Rome, detail
 Fig. 2 Selfie with nose extension
 Fig. 3 More nose extensions
 in use
 Fig. 4 Digital slideshow:
 Power of Punch
 Fig. 5 Lecture: Power of Punch

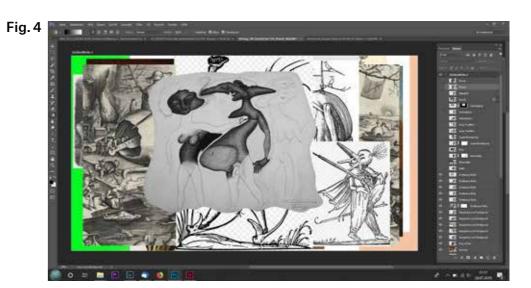


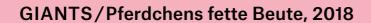
Fig. 5











Concrete stand, metal and carbon tubes, PVC mesh, print, concrete, cloth, shop labels, 3 × 1 m

GIANTS/Pferdchens fette Beute (horsey's prime booty) are two three metre high 2D-sculptures held on beach flag constructions, which we commonly see in front of shops to draw attention to passers-by. What is shown on these flags seems insignificant. It is easy to first associate the image with a horse, a seahorse or a dinosaur, while it is actually is a digitally reworked anatomical diagram of the clitoris organ, which – typically, until the late 20th century – omits two large drop shaped parts, the vestibular bulbs. Here they have been supplemented using heavily filled over-sized plastic shopping bags from popular store chains such as H&M, New Yorker, Chanel and the drugstore Müller.



Fig. 3

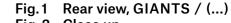


Fig. 2 Close up,

GIANTS' shopping bags
Fig. 3 Close up, latex trunk,

Shadow Regiment

Fig. 4 Children touching trunk



51



Fig. 1

Schattenregiment (Shadow Regiment), 2018

Public Space, Kornhausplatz, Ulm Textile, plastic foil, zippers, thread, concrete, PU-foam, latex, umbrellas, 3.3 × 3 × 3 m

Street furniture (benches, street lights, bins etc.) is not only provided by the local communes, but also by a large number of catering trades that wash their plastic chairs, tables, mushroom-shaped patio heaters, polyacrylamide blankets and parasols onto the urban sidewalks and into public spaces. Shadow Regiment draws reference to this art of furnishing non-private spaces. A pair of palm trees and/or broken parasols in one. While as a palm tree the provision of some shade is still given, the parasol's full protective function is lost. The pole is covered in a voluminous latex skin, wrinkled, like orange peel. And it has been wounded and already bandaged. Exposure to the sun will cause it to age and become even more wrinkly.

#Mpreg, 2018

Digital print on terry cloth, 140 × 70 cm

#Mpreg is a series of prints on towels based on actual footage of male pregnancy in Second Life. The images include familiar female gestures, such as touching someone's pregnant belly, or the expectant mother reinforcing her back with her hands. Baby bumps carry six packs and men garden to prepare for giving birth. These towels can be bought at the price of their production; the artist therefore denying authorship on their design.





Fig. 2

Fig. 1 Shadow Regiment with fountain

Fig. 2 Towels, #Mpreg

Fig. 3 Towels spred on Kornhausplatz



52

Insight Giants/The Tourist, 2019

Two related exhibitions, in Brussels and Hamburg Sculptures, collages and photographs on blueprint paper

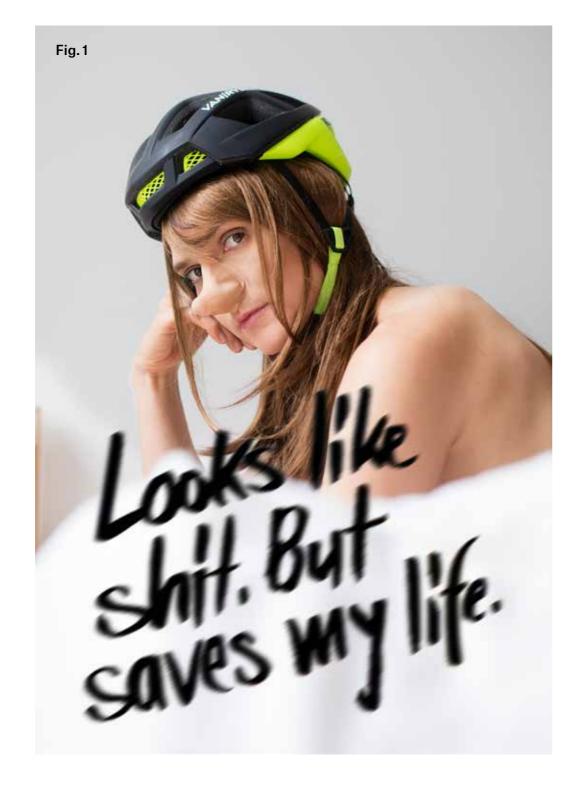






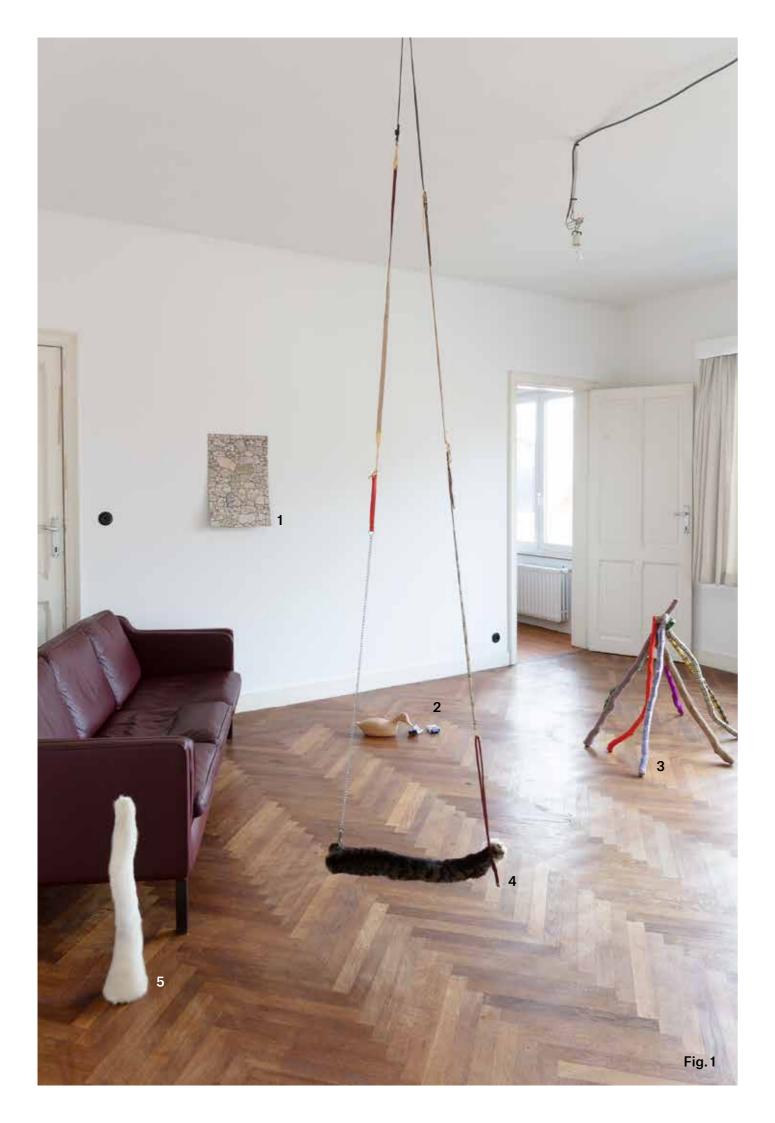


Fig. 3

Looks Like Shit But Saves My Life, 2019

Cavity-plate, digital print on blueprint paper

The life-saving element of the artist's self-portrait remains baffling. Is it the fake nose? Or the bicycle helmet? And what exactly are they supposed to protect her against? Or might we be dealing with the world-famous lie detector à la Pinocchio? Self-empowerment through a facial phallus? The surroundings only provide further irritation: a flawlessly white bedroom landscape? And the sexy dress? Just as long as the model for this strange image, an advertising campaign of the German Federal Ministry of Transport 2019, remains undisclosed...



Smoking kills-

Duck sees Representation of Human Bodies, 2019

Wooden Canada duck, cigarette boxes

Since the Tobacco Products Directive became applicable in 2016, our insides have been systematically exhibited to the public, resulting in the diorama of two very different physical images: the beautiful self-contained body and the ailing overt one. Anthropology often seeks to take the farthest possible distance in order to understand situations that are actually very close. Thus also the duck's perspective on a possible scenario of bewilderment.

Fig. 1 Installation view, The Tourist, Brussels Fig. 2 Smoking kills-Duck sees Representation of

Human Bodies



- 1 Quarry, wallpaper with stoneprint, water colour
- 2 Smoking kills Duck sees Representation of human Bodies
- 3 Bonfire
- 4 Muff, cat fur, handbag waer belts, stick
- 5 Petting Tale, fur collar, nylon



Fig. 1 Hansel, object Fig. 2 Installation view, Bonfire

Hansel, 2019

Liquor glass, glass holder, branches, latex

When fairy tales were still considered to be pedagogically relevant, various decorative glasses were stored in dedicated stands. Hansel is being fattened by the wicked witch and she wants to feel his finger (?!). But Hansel cheats her by sticking out a branch from the cage for her to feel. In the end the witch herself roasts over the fire in the oven, while the siblings return to their precious world of liquor glass trinkets.



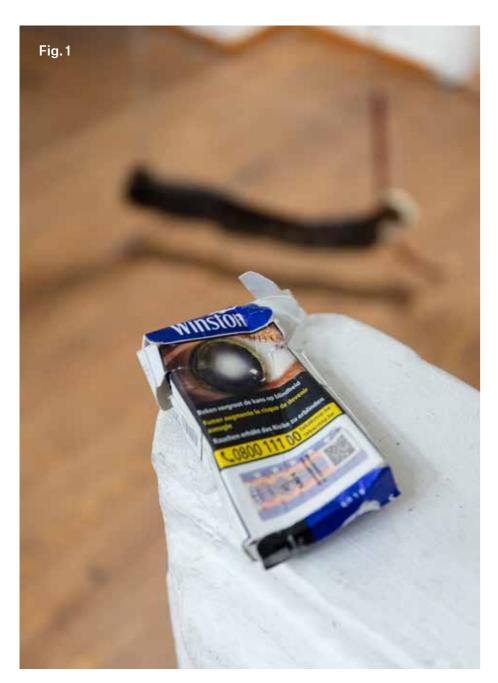


Fig. 1 Smoking kills, cigarette box objects
Fig. 2 Wisp, sculpture, exhibtion view
Fig. 3 Embroidery, exhibtion

Fig. 2



Schwade (Wisp), 2019

Ceramic chimney, branches, nylon fabric





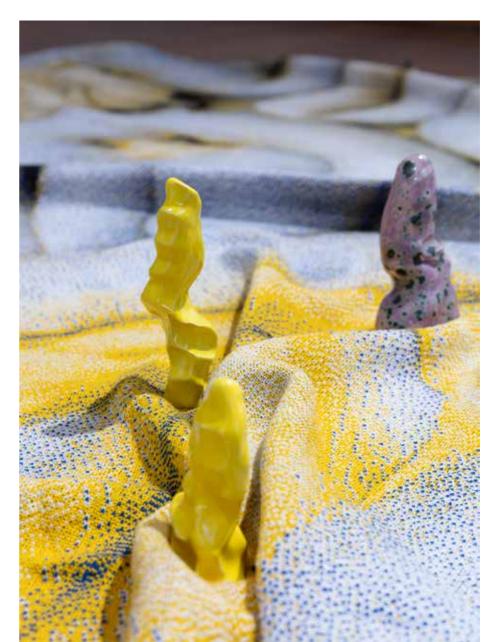


Fig. 1 Exhibition view,
Open Hearth
Fig. 2 Open Hearth, blank
with intestine patts

Fig. 2 Open Hearth, blanket with intestine pattern, inhabeted by ceramic flames, close up

Fig. 3

Open Hearth, 2019

Installation, press board plate, wallpaper with stone print, watercolour, blanket, enamel-coated ceramic

Open fireplace plays with the classic design elements of a stately living room. Love on the tiger skin in front of an open fireplace. The individual elements of the installation itself prove to be porous. The stone fireplace is covered with vintage wallpaper with a stone pattern that has been hand-painted in watercolour. Little flame-shaped ceramic creatures seem to have formed inside and escaped from the hearth, awaiting something they stand erect on the blanket.

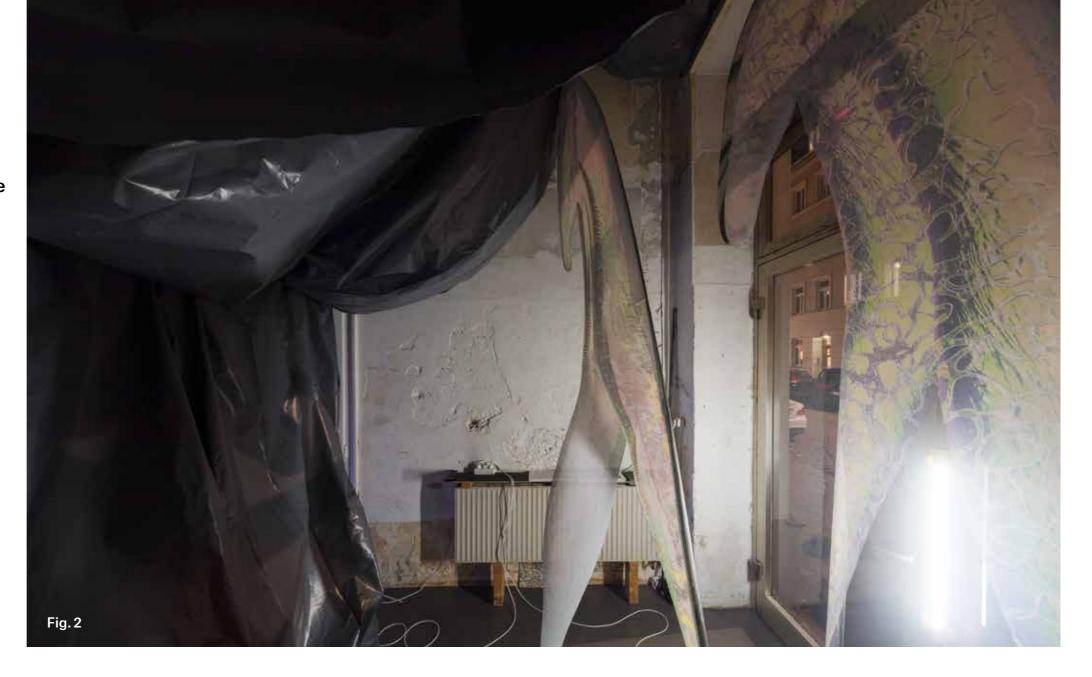
Höhle (Cave), 2019

Exhibition at Milchstrasse, Munich Installation, mixed media

It's not really possible to build a void. One could dig a cave into the ground and then furnish it. Or it could emerge as a by-product, if something else were built, and a cavern was left out. Neither of these is true of the cave in the exhibition space at Milchstrasse. However, with some degree of intervention, the space could be converted into a cave, because the cave is not a cave, but a mock-up, a sham cave.



Fig. 1



<u>Horsey, 2019</u>

Sail banners, digital print on PVC mesh, carbon and iron poles, sandstone bricks, 3D-texture support by Nikolas Müller, 3 × 1.2 m

The two banners, which greet silently near the window, not showing dinosaurs or the like, but schematized depictions of the clitoris: erected as a sculpture and freed into the light, rather than being hidden in the depths the body and dutifully mentioned as an addendum to the female sex, that is all too often understood as a cave. So what if this were the origin of the world? Not a black box, not a horizontal half-tunnel into which something enters and then something else comes out, but curved verticals. Sails that make you wonder what floats their boat. They stand waiting, without waiting for anyone in particular, cheeky comrades in techno dresses, announcing the unveiling of the world.

Fig. 1 Door window view, Horsev

Fig. 2 Inside view, Horsey





Wave the White Flag, 2019

Vintage crutch, offset print on wax-coated linen, $80 \times 30 \times 20$ cm

Watercolour of a human reduced to their digestive tract, attached to a crutch, a provisional flag. I surrender. I give up...

Fig. 1 Sculpture,
Wave the White Flag
Fig. 2 Exhibition view,
Mother in Law and
Hump







Fig. 1 Exhibition view, Wave the White Flag and It's a Long Way Down

Fig. 2 Exhibition view, Mother in Law



Mother in Law, 2019

Bandage clip, aluminium, skinned armchair, 70 × 150 cm

The counterpart to the preliminary stage and transcendence of the interior would be a brace that clasps on retrospectively and externally. Perhaps it doesn't actually close the wound, but just secures the protective bandage. Here, however, it hangs inside the cave, floating like a trapeze artist. Every cave needs its fig leaf.

It's a Long Way Down, 2019

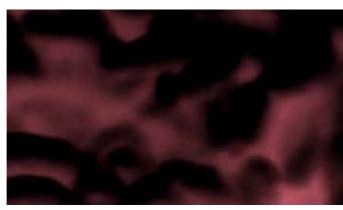
Video including found footage and sound excerpts from Dreams (1964) by Delia Derbyshire, HD video, 8:17 min. Interior meets innards in this video. And if you consider the screen not as a window to another world, but as a part that stands for the whole, then consider it to be the body you currently inhabit. It's a Long Way Down assembles found and self-filmed images of entering and passing through a tunnel, creating the impression of travelling inside the digestive tract. Leading through the body as if perhaps the inside might not rather be considered outside than inside. A cincture, looped and wrapped around the body.



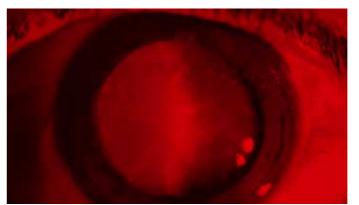


















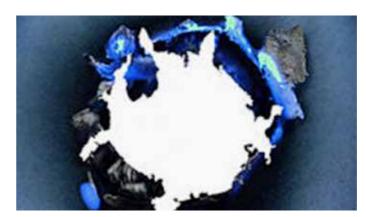










Fig. 1 Video Stills, It's a Long Way Down

Stone



www.verenaseibt.com verena.seibt@gmail.com Imprint: 2020 © All rights reserved to Verena Seibt Layout: Judith Pretsch und Verena Seibt Text: Verena Seibt und Thomas Splett Fotos: Thomas Splett, Malte Bruns, KP Berg Translation: Anna Stühler