

Press release

MURATCENTOVENTIDUE ARTECONTEMPORANEA

AFTERGLOW

URSULA PALLA

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present *Afterglow*, a solo exhibition featuring works by Ursula Palla.

Ursula Palla was born in Chur in 1961. She studied drawing and painting at the F+F School for Art and Design in Zurich from 1989 to 1992, where she then taught video art until 1999. She was an assistant to Pipilotti Rist. In 1994 she co-founded the performance group Cooperation Projekt X in Zurich, to which she belonged until 2002. Since 1992 she has regularly participated in solo and group exhibitions as well as video festivals in Switzerland and abroad. Decisive for her career as an artist are also cantonal work grants, studio scholarships and architectural art projects. Her works can be found throughout Europe in renowned private and museum collections such as the Gemeente Museum in The Hague, the ZKM Zentrum für Kunst und Medien in Karlsruhe and the Kunsthaus Zürich. Palla lives and works in Zurich.

While in Ursula Palla's early work the accent was on man as a figure between appearance and disappearance, after 2000 the world of plants and animals came into focus as a motif. The artificiality of nature crystallizes ever more clearly as the central theme of the multimedia-based oeuvre. In the form of videos and sculptures made of bronze, which are sometimes grouped together as installations, she critically questions the appropriation and manipulation of nature by man, because "our landscape today has changed a lot and is overbuilt. Natural landscapes have become rare, and we have developed the ability to see selectively. We fade out what is disturbing, we overlook it or transfigure it" (Ursula Palla, 2013). Her works, which are preceded by well-founded research, suggest a paradisiacal state on a formal-aesthetic level. On closer inspection, the beautiful appearance falls apart at the contradictions of the details. Illusion and reality enter into a tense relationship in her works.

The artist interweaves video with spatial sculptures and works with sensitive materials such as cast sugar, coal dust, and snow in her artistic practice. The fragility of nature and wildlife is the focus of many works. An enchanting aesthetic makes this accessible on a first level. At the same time, all works are based on comprehensive

research, the knowledge of which fully reveals the depth and urgency of the works. Ursula Palla's video and spatial installations are poetic and at the same time reveal empty spaces that often leave us feeling stale and remind us of our responsibility towards nature and the environment.

The video installation "*Thousand*" is inspired by a story about a woman from Shanghai, who hid her savings under the mattress. After a while she realized that there were only scraps left: her savings got most likely eaten by ants. The video shows leaf-eating ants at their work. The animals can be seen cutting a thousand-franc note into tiny pieces as well as transporting the paper shreds, which are used as humus for the cultivation of fungal cultures.

"The work becomes a metaphor for the power of a nature which makes use of the achievements of humanity in order to demonstrate its actual volatility." (Andrea Jahn)

The video installation "*The Moon In My Pocket*" can be seen in a surreal landscape - reminiscent of a civilization wasteland, of decay and new beginnings.

Scraps of cloth fly through the air, get stuck, crash and lose themselves in space, reminding us of the remnants of civilization.

The installation "*Herb and Weeds*" is created on site. Nettles once stretching out to the ceiling and then turned upside down, pointing to the ground. The plants made of sand and ground rubble are blown directly to the wall with a leaf blower. The work reflects the complex relationship of humans to nature, which is desired or undesirable according to the focus.

Ursula Palla's video installation "*Bird*" shows an owl that wants to fly away, although it is tied by the feet. The artist wants to encourage viewers to think about how we treat our environment.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122 / b - Bari

Inauguration

Saturday October 15, 2022, 7.00 pm

Period

15 October - 10 December 2022

Opening hours

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment only

From Thursday to Saturday, from 17.30 to 20.30

Info

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<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea>

https://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue_bari

CV

Ursula Palla, born in Chur Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich Switzerland,

selected solo shows

2022 Kunst(Zeug)Haus Rapperswil/CH, Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur/CH, Cabane Rorschacherberg/CH

2021 Saccheti Contemporary Ascona/CH, **2020** solo show - artgenève/ GenèveCH **2020** Galerie Gisèle Linder Basel/CH

2019 Kunstraum Kreuzlingen/CH, Kunsthalle Wil/CH **2018** Historisches Museum des Kantons Aargau Schloss Hallwyl/CH und Schloss Wildeggen/CH **2017** Kunstmuseum Bern/CH **2016** Galerie Sam Scherrer Zürich/CH, **2013** Museum Langmatt Baden/CH, **2011** Kunsthalle Arbon/CH **2010** Kunstraum Walcheturm Zürich/CH **2006** c-art gallery Bregenz/A, **2005** Galerie Evelyne Canus Basel/CH **2004** Kunstraum Walcheturm Zürich/CH, **2002** Kunsthalle Schaffhausen/CH **1999** Helmhaus - Zürich/CH

selected group shows

2022 Kunstmuseum Thun/CH, Museo Villa dei Cedri Bellinzona/CH, Int. Art Meeting Athens/GR, **2021** Kunstmuseum Olten Aareweg/CH, Muratecentoventidue Bari/I, Kunstmuseum Thurgau Ittingen/CH, Kunstraum Dornbirn/A, **2020** Espace Monte Christo (Fondation Villa Datris) Paris/F, Kunsthalle Ziegelhütte Appenzell/CH, **2019** Kunstmuseum Den Haag/NL, Cairo Biennale/E, Fondation Villa Datris Isle sur la Sorgue/F, MARS Milano/I **2018** 2B Galeria Budapest/HUN, artfair Paris/F (swiss selection of female video works), Center for contemporary art Plovdiv/Bulgaria, LAM-Art Museum Lisse/NL, **2017** LLuc Fluxa-Art projectes Palma de Mallorca/E, Kunstraum Baden/CH, Motorenhalle Dresden/DE, Le CYEL la Roche-sur-Yon/F, **2016** Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur/CH, **2015** Fondazione Cini Venedia/I, Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg/DE, Musée du papier peint Mézières/CH, **2014** Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken/DE, Galerie Michael Sturm Stuttgart/DE, **2013** Kunstmuseum Bern/CH **2012** Kunstmuseum Olten/CH **2011** Substitut Berlin/DE, Contemporary Art Festival tina b. Prag/CZ **2010** Espace d'art contemporain Porrentruy/CH, **2009** Galerie HelmRinderknecht Berlin/DE **2008** Musée d'Art moderne St.Etienne/F,

Künstlerhaus Wien/A, **2007** ZKM Zentrum Kunst+Medien Karlsruhe/D, Oktobersalon
Belgrad/Serbien, **2006** Biennale Shumen/BG, Palazzo delle Arti Napoli/I, **2005** Musée de
Monmartre Paris/F, **2004** Swiss Institute New York/USA, CynetArt Dresden/D, **2003**
Kunsthalle Zürich/CH, Kunsthalle Wien/A, Neues Museum Weserburg Bremen/D **2002**
Kunsthaus Baselland Muttenz/CH,
2000 Kunstraum Innsbruck/A **1999** Kunsthaus Zürich/CH

<https://ursulapalla.kleio.com/filter/work>