

JULIA HAUGENEDER *Idylle, blau*

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For her first show in collaboration with Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, Julia Haugeneder is showing a new series of folded sculptures and wall works that she developed especially for the gallery space in Innsbruck. The objects *Faltung 203-235* are being shown for the first time, partly on transparent pieces of Plexiglas furniture, partly on the anti-slip floor laid out in the gallery as part of the exhibition. In addition, two large wall works hang in the entrance area, a linocut made of standard floor material, 2 x 3 metres, and the work *untitled (Lamellen)*. The latter is made of the same material as the artist's *Faltungen*, in which Haugeneder mixes bookbinding glue with pigment and then shapes or folds the material, that has dried in the flat. An audio book created for the exhibition, written by Ulrich Meurer, a film and media scientist, read by Asher O'Gorman und Almud Krejza, provides the soundscape in the exhibition *Idylle, blau*, which invites visitors to immerse themselves in it. The artist took her inspiration for the title and ideas from the US feature film *The Swimmer* (1968).

Excerpts of “Agency and Permeability in Julia Haugeneder’s ‘Fold’ Series of Works”

Claire Hoffmann, Curator at Centre Culturell Suisse in Paris, 2020:

“These cast surfaces swathe, indeed “wrap” – entirely in the intransitive sense, not of wrapping around something, but rather the gestures of encasing, folding and protecting constitute the work’s form. ... The surfaces touch and roll into themselves; the outer surfaces are drawn into an invisible interior. The idea of a deflated core is taken further in some objects where bubble wrap is used a filling for the volume and, in a conceptual inversion, the artistic material is laid protectively round the packing material. Unlike Surrealism’s objects, which encase something enigmatically, provoking a speculative desire through this visual withdrawal, here the folded casing becomes an ambiguous figure that might connect the interior and exterior. Instead of creating hermetic, introverted capsules, Julia Haugeneder’s folds are formally, materially, and associatively permeable, softening established concepts.

When speaking about her process, the artist focuses on the stages of production. Actions such as pouring, cutting, folding, and “making material” are suggested as a possible way of approaching her work. In doing so, it is important for her to lay bare the *how* of the work, the working steps, and the material decisions: the use of bookbinding glue, which retains its elasticity even after setting, the spontaneous selection of color pigments, the necessity of the plaster and grilles to stabilize the skins, the control over processes simultaneous with a certain loss of control, and the sequence of further steps, including cutting, folding, rolling, wrapping, ordering, and positioning in space, in which the tension between artistic decision-making and material resistance are manifested. Charged with such a density of actions in the production process, the objects are inscribed with a certain potential for action that persists beyond the moment of their creation.”

Julia Haugeneder (*1987 in Vienna) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and in London at Central Saint Martins, UAL graphics and printmaking techniques as well as at the University of Vienna and the Erasmus University Rotterdam art history, philosophy and theatre, film and media studies.

Her works have most recently been shown at Kunstraum Super Vienna (2020), Galerie Sophia Vonier Salzburg (2020), Futur 3 Festival Kiel (DE; 2020), Parallel Vienna 2020 (solo presentation with Projektraum Viktor Bucher, 2020), MUSA Vienna (solo, 2019), Kunstverein Baden (2018), Galerie 5020, Salzburg (2017), and in connection with her diploma presentation (2019) at xposit Akademie der bildenden Künste Vienna.

In 2021, she will have a residency in Chicago (sponsored by the province of Lower Austria), a solo show at Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, a duo show at Kunstverein Baden as well as participation in exhibitions at newnow artspace Frankfurt, NÖ-Art and 5020 Salzburg.