

sharp

Unhinged

Anna Walther & Julia Znoj

October 6 - 27, 2023

Unhinged is a two-person show by Anna Walther and Julia Znoj. This exhibition features both new and existing sculptures and installation works. A common overlap in their approach includes critiquing constraints found in cultural tropes. While Znoj utilizes objects that are intended to be open but are affixed; Walther deconstructs structures and items used to control — both artists occupy a space between being hinged and unhinged as a response to larger circumstances.

Upon entering a purple-gray hued fabric is intertwined with the structural poles towards the left corner of the gallery, in Znoj's "9th street drape" (2022), where she transfers negative and positive spaces onto vinyl. "Her Coiling Eyes" (2023) are metal ribbons that coil and swirl on the far center wall, conveying or projecting something imagined.

A blue glass sphere and a present shaped box with a red-orange ribbon are placed on each footstep of a horse stirrup. "Gifted" (2023) and "Winner's Circle" (2023) by Walther lead to thoughts of breaking down constricting ideas and stereotypes. The artist borrows imagery and draws inspiration from glass ball-head sewing pins or needles (also used for horse saddle construction) that have small figurines used to hold the material in its place. If glass-making and sewing are perceived as 'hobby art', in this context the craft is put in the position of the rider in the esteemed sport or recreational activity of horseback riding.

Walther's practice acknowledges the cultural shift from art historical skill to recent connotations of craft art; while also reappropriating minimalistic objects to address conceptual aesthetics within a contemporary art space. When preparing this new body of work, Walther began dismantling a horse saddle, an equestrian structure that is used to control or guide. Displayed on the floor is "A Needle Will Drop" (2023) in which a seat is pierced with a large ceramic and glass needle intended to 'hurt the person on top'.

The exhibition continues to confront institutional, cultural, and/or societal critique on the basement level. Znoj navigates her own path of critique by utilizing gender-typed or so-called feminine objects such as small mirrors and dolls in "Jailed for freedom" (2021) and "Compass Polly" (2021). The enlarged and aged interpretation of Polly Pockets, a child's toy from the late 1980s features plastic miniature dolls inside a case reminiscent of a pocket-sized mirror, one can assume the artist's intentions to adjust as such. The alleged miniature worlds (with hinge indentations like a clasp or handle) for dolls and other compact shapes including a moon and heart are arranged on the gray basement floor. Appearing solid and heavy by the stone-like colortone, the works are however soft and lightweight. Overall the 'found' and mixed-media materials in the exhibition is a constellation of symbols and everyday shapes with interchangeable meanings to remind us of our subconscious perceptions.

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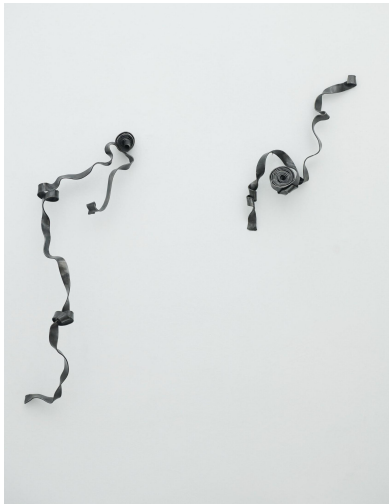
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Anna Walther is a Danish artist based in Copenhagen, DK.

Julia Znoj was born in Bern, Switzerland and is based in Vienna, AT and Zurich, CH.



Julia Znoj
Her Coiling Eyes
Metal
120 x 20 x 120 cm
2023



Anna Walther
A Needle Will Drop
Horse saddle, ceramics, blown glass
120 x 70 x 42 cm
2023

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Julia Znoj
9th street drape
Vinyl cloth, laser-print transfer
Dimensions variable
2022



Anna Walther
Winner's Circle
Stirrup, blown glass
77 x 15 x 7 cm
2023

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Anna Walther
Gifted
Stirrup, blown glass
71 x 15 x 12 cm
2023



Julia Znoj
Jailed for freedom
Mixed media, acrylic paint
19 x 70 x 74 cm
2021

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Julia Znoj

Ruine

Mixed media, Chicken wire

17 x 115 x 100 cm

2021



Julia Znoj

Pick up the moon

Mixed media, cement

14 x 18 x 26 cm

2019

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Julia Znoj

Compass Polly

Mixed media, paint, glass

33 x 62 x 78 cm

2021