

NICOLA GENOVESE

Selected works

I am interested in exploring the relationships between materials, how they communicate, and how hierarchies develop when materials are obliged to interact. Each material carries its own story, but this story can be questioned, primarily through unexpected relationships. The shapes and the materials that I put in conversation exist bodily, even though they try to escape their biological destiny. I developed materiality that underlines the struggle between alterity and identity. Identities are socially constructed but at the same time are internalized to the extent that they become flesh. Materiality indeed cannot just be analyzed through discourse and cultural tools.

There are queer camp elements in my esthetic that try to challenge the masculine body and references to medieval and baroque grotesque/carnavalesque tradition. For me, decoration is not synonymous with superficiality but rather a tool to create incongruency. The hybrid sculptures that I develop claim their ambivalence, but on the other hand, they have to return to a sort of stable shape. Ambivalence doesn't have to be seen solely as an alternation of opposites but rather as the whole process of shifting the attention from one stable image to another.

Drowning me softly (2022)

Textile, metal, pewter

250 x 130 x 60 cm

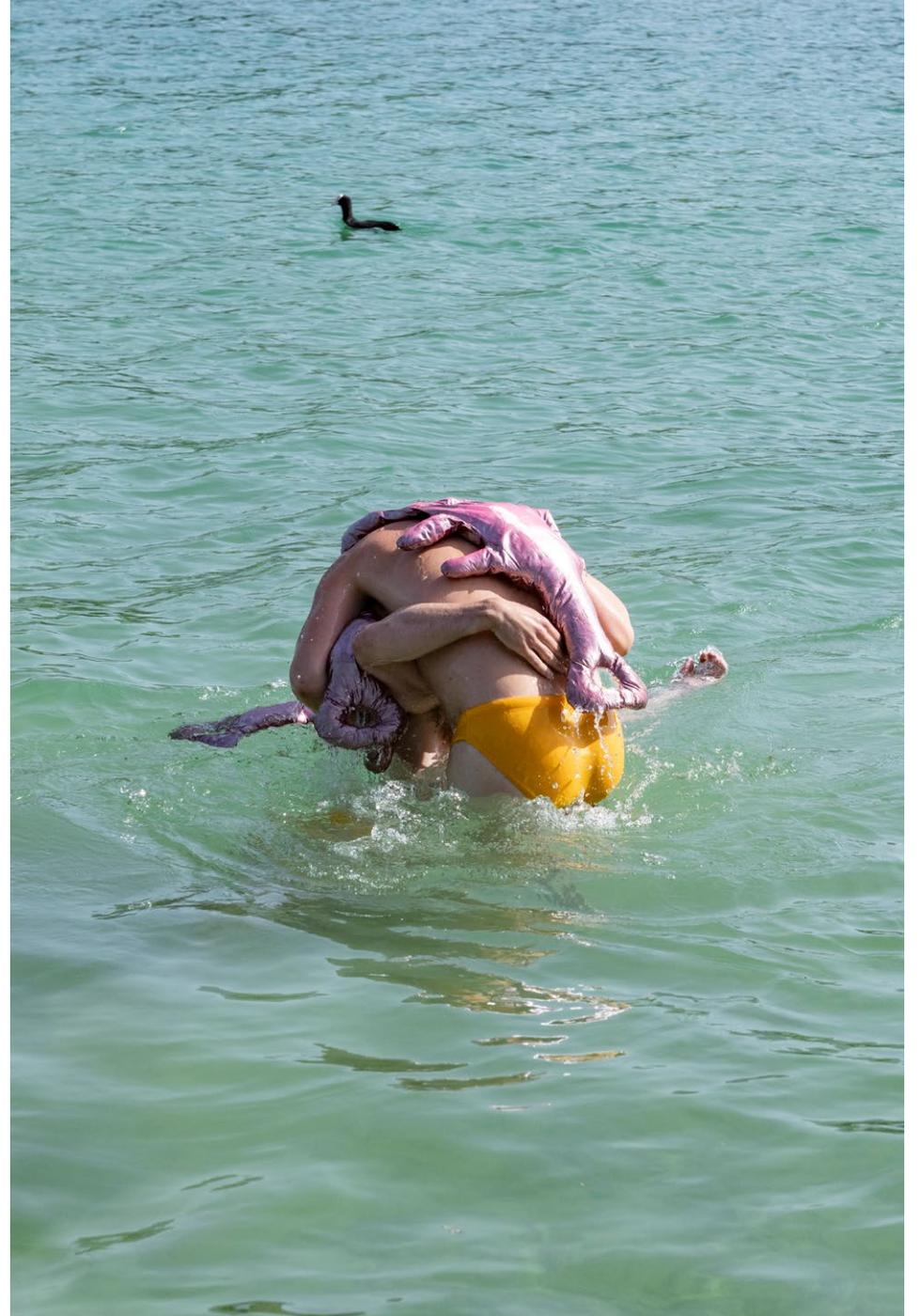
Drowning me softly (2022)

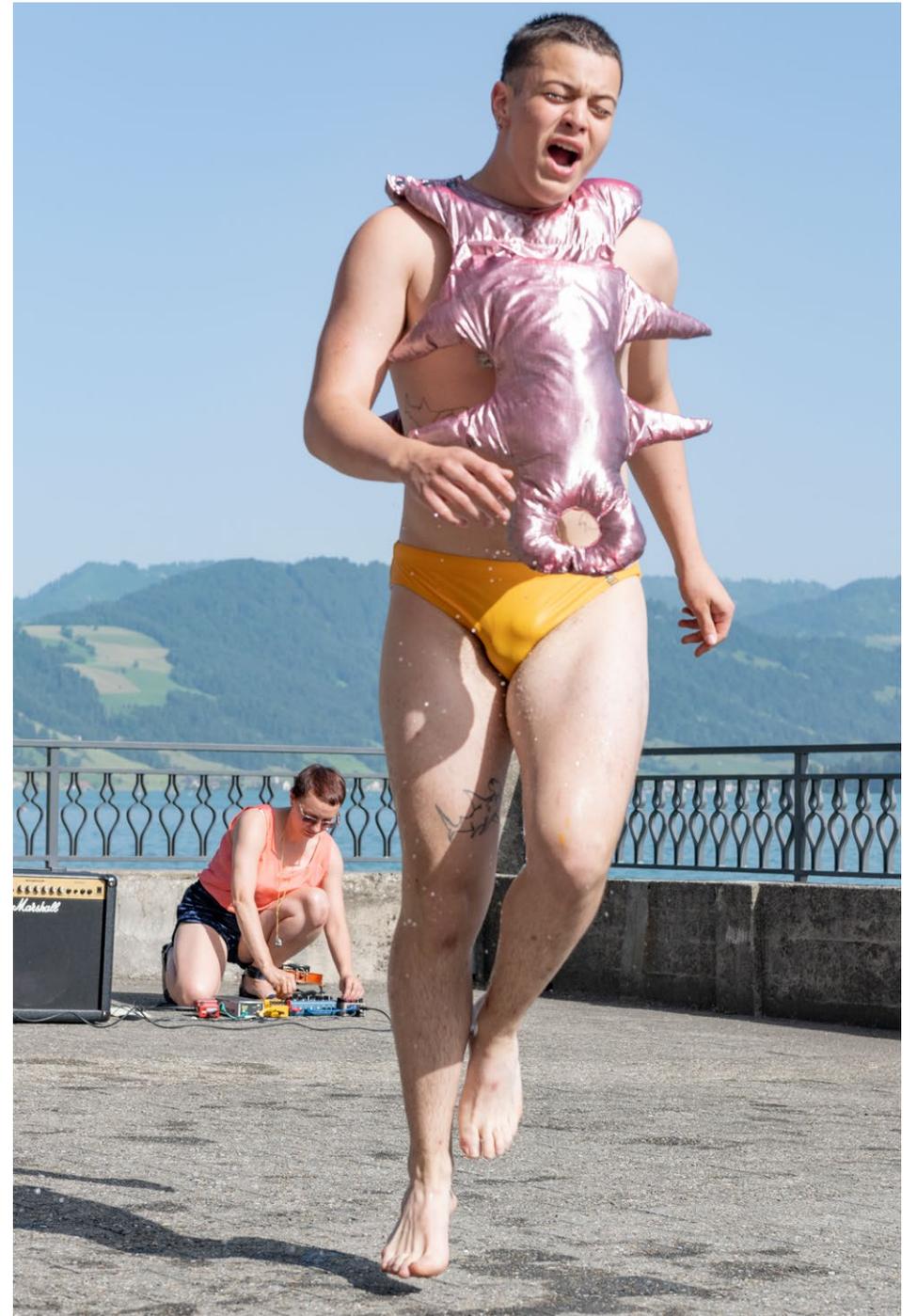
30 minutes performance

Two dancer, one violinist and one opera singer.







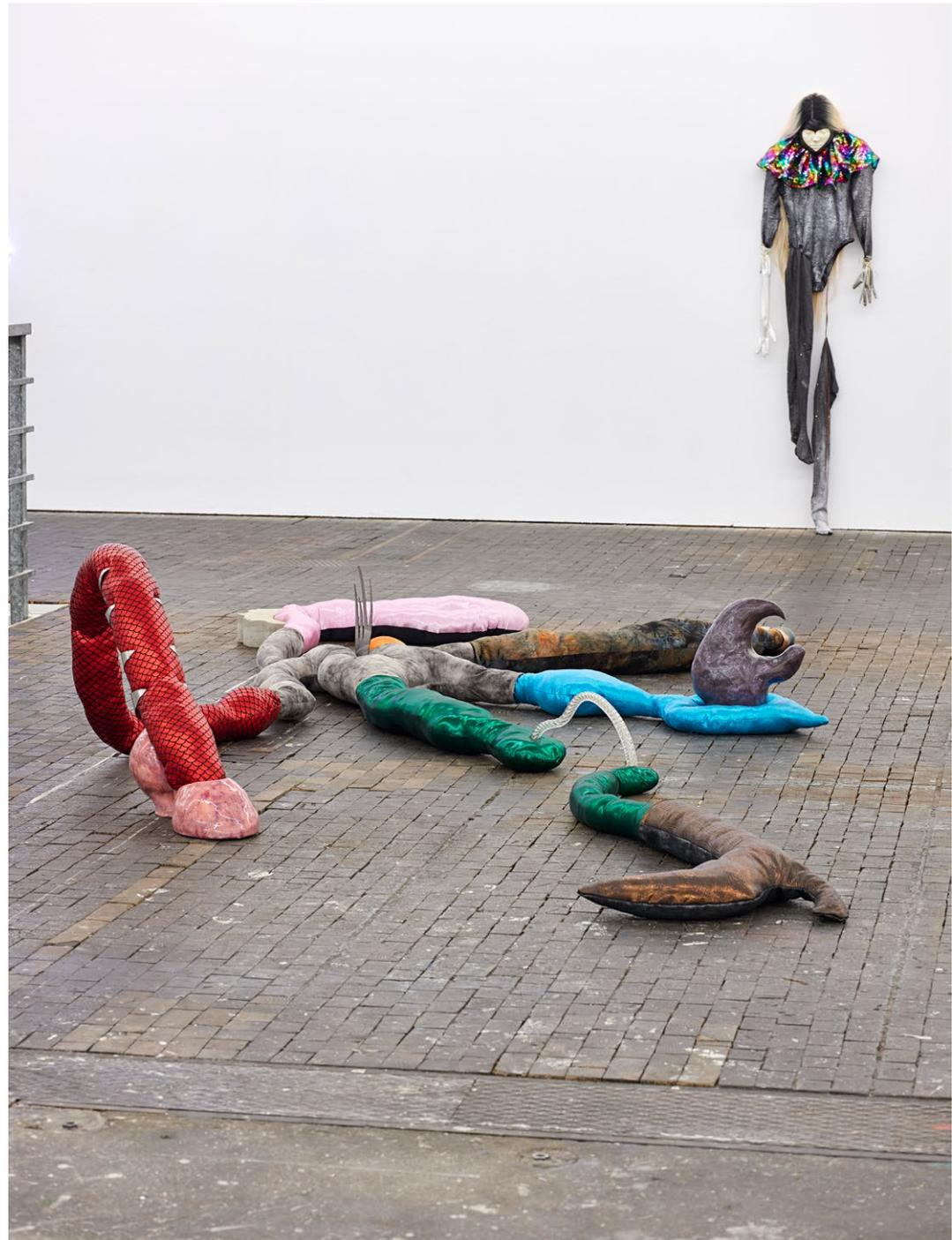




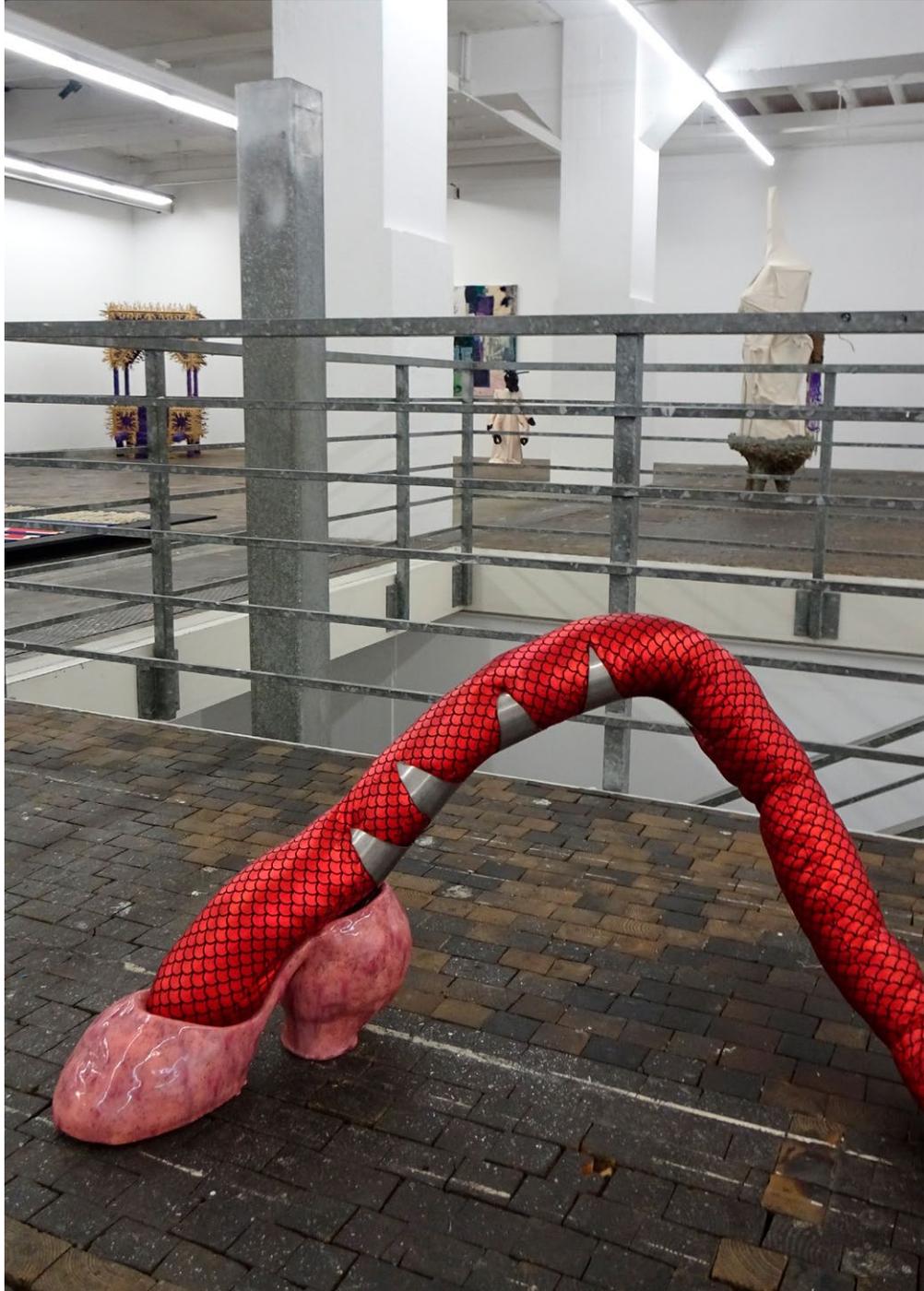
Cutting cuddling (2021)

*Textile, glazed ceramic, foam, metal, glass,
wood, leather, copper, concrete*

370 x 220 x 45 cm





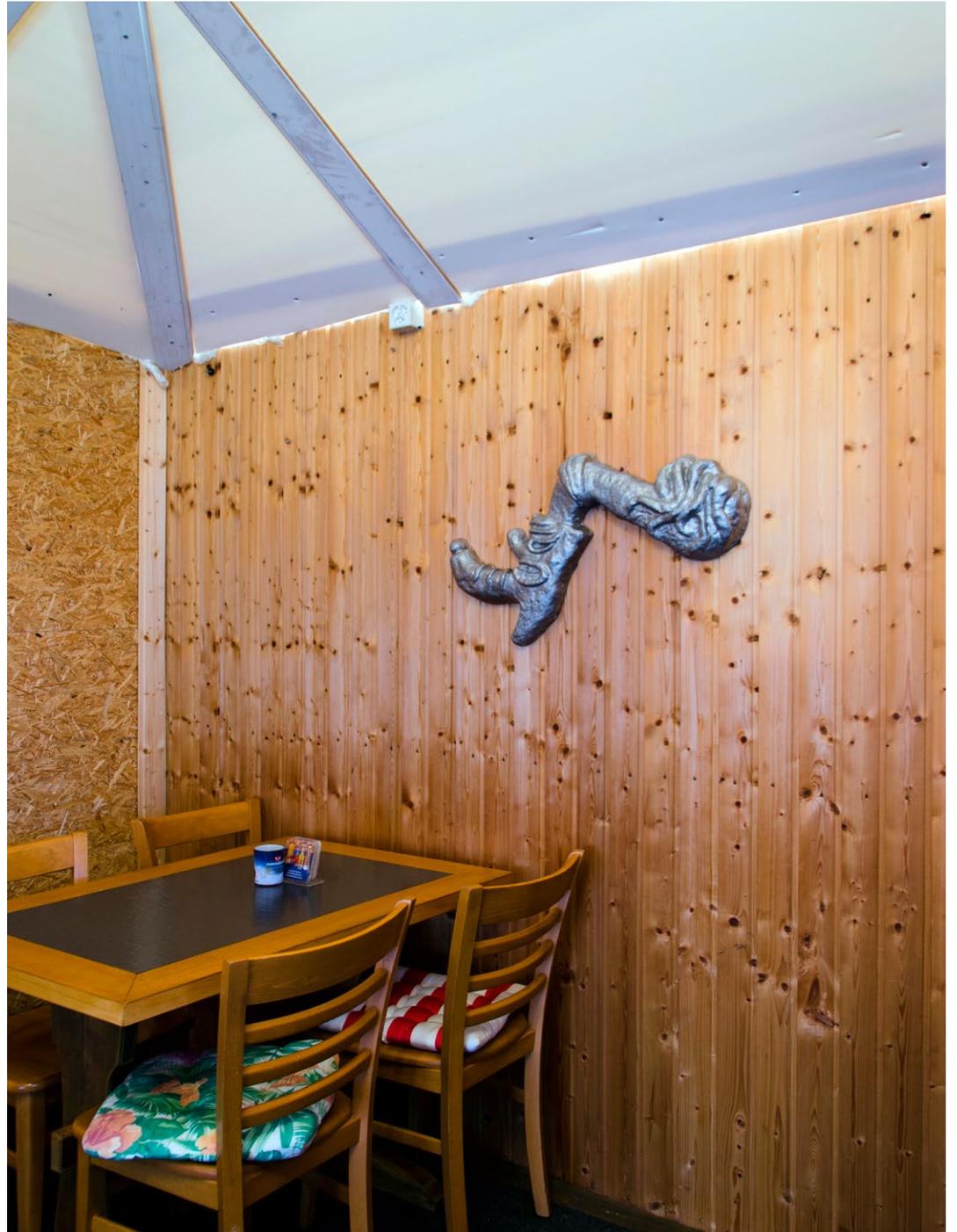




Achille's heel *2 (2022)

Alluminum cast

80 x 40 x 10 cm





Cabiria (2022)

Ceramic, metal, Gucci's fake leather

120 x 30 x 36 cm





Maciste (2022)

Iron, textile, pewter casting, plastic

115 x 90 x 15 cm





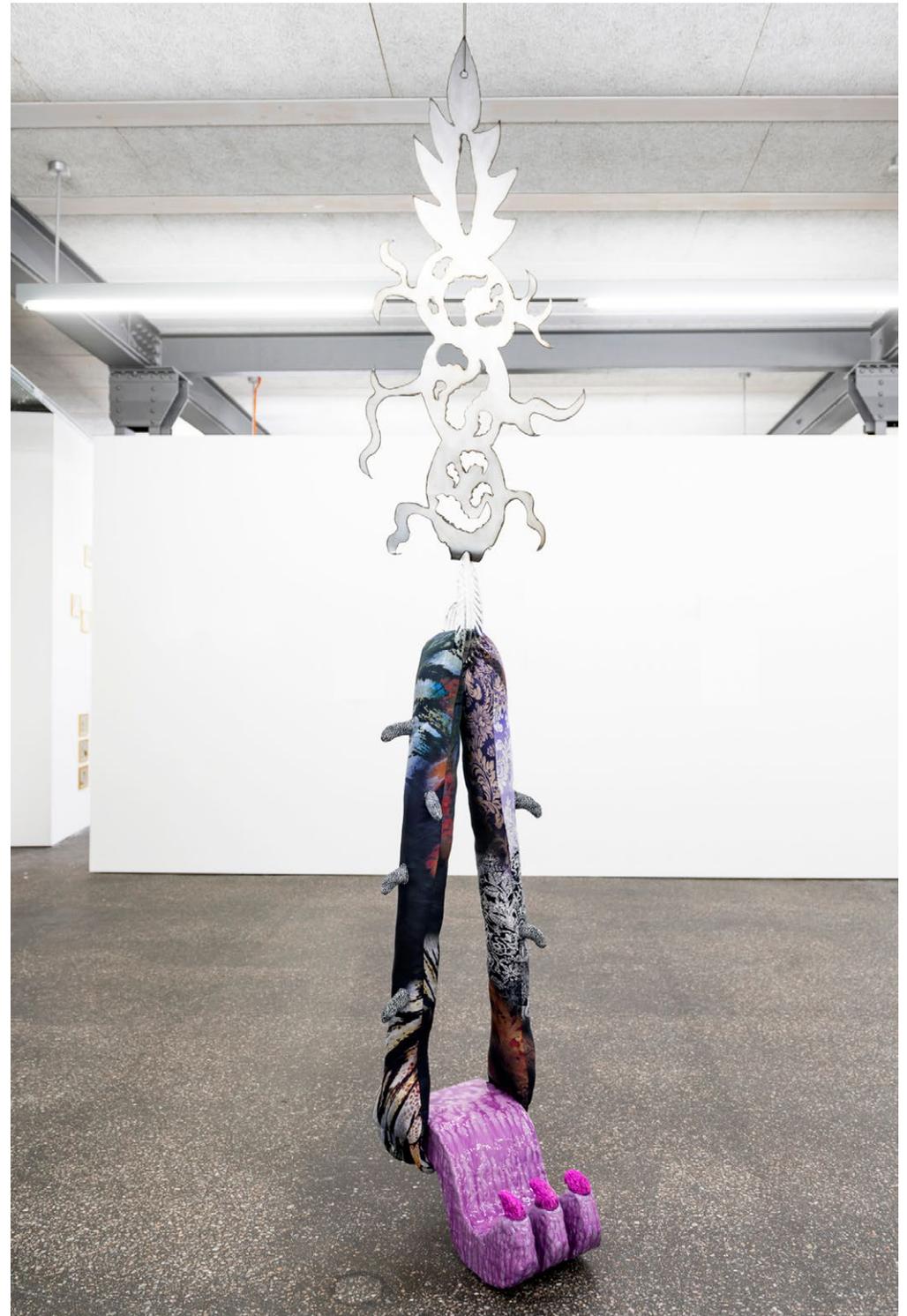


The heel syndrome *1 (2021)

Textile, resin, foam, metal, pearl clay, Burano glass
270 x 45 x 50 cm

Achille`s heel (2021)

Activation performance









When boundaries bite (2020 - ongoing series)

This series brings my sculptural and performative practice together in a more intimate display. The elements are arranged in a puzzle or rather in a sort of Tetris game where each shape is obliged to fit in the nearest one. The frictions that result in the dialogue highlight the intrinsic ambivalence of each material. The decision of hanging the sculptures on the wall comes from the necessity to explore the interstice between bidimensional images and tridimensionality.



When boundaries bite *1

metal, ceramic, glass, foam, wood, resin, copper, textile

56 x 56 x 5 cm



When boundaries bite *2

metal, shaped canvas, textile, foam, resin, ceramic

65 x 55 x 8 cm



When boundaries bite *3

metal, concrete, textile, foam, pearl clay

60 x 59 x 8 cm



When boundaries bite *4

metal, ceramic, foam, wood, resin, textile, plastic

64 x 45 x 6 cm



When boundaries bite *5

metal, concrete, foam, wood, resin, textile, plastic, silicone

66 x 60 x 10 cm



When boundaries bite *6

metal, ceramic, foam, wood, fake leather, silicone,

49 x 61 x 6 cm



When boundaries bite *7

metal, ceramic, foam, pearl clay, resin, textile

57 x 51 x 6 cm



When boundaries bite *8

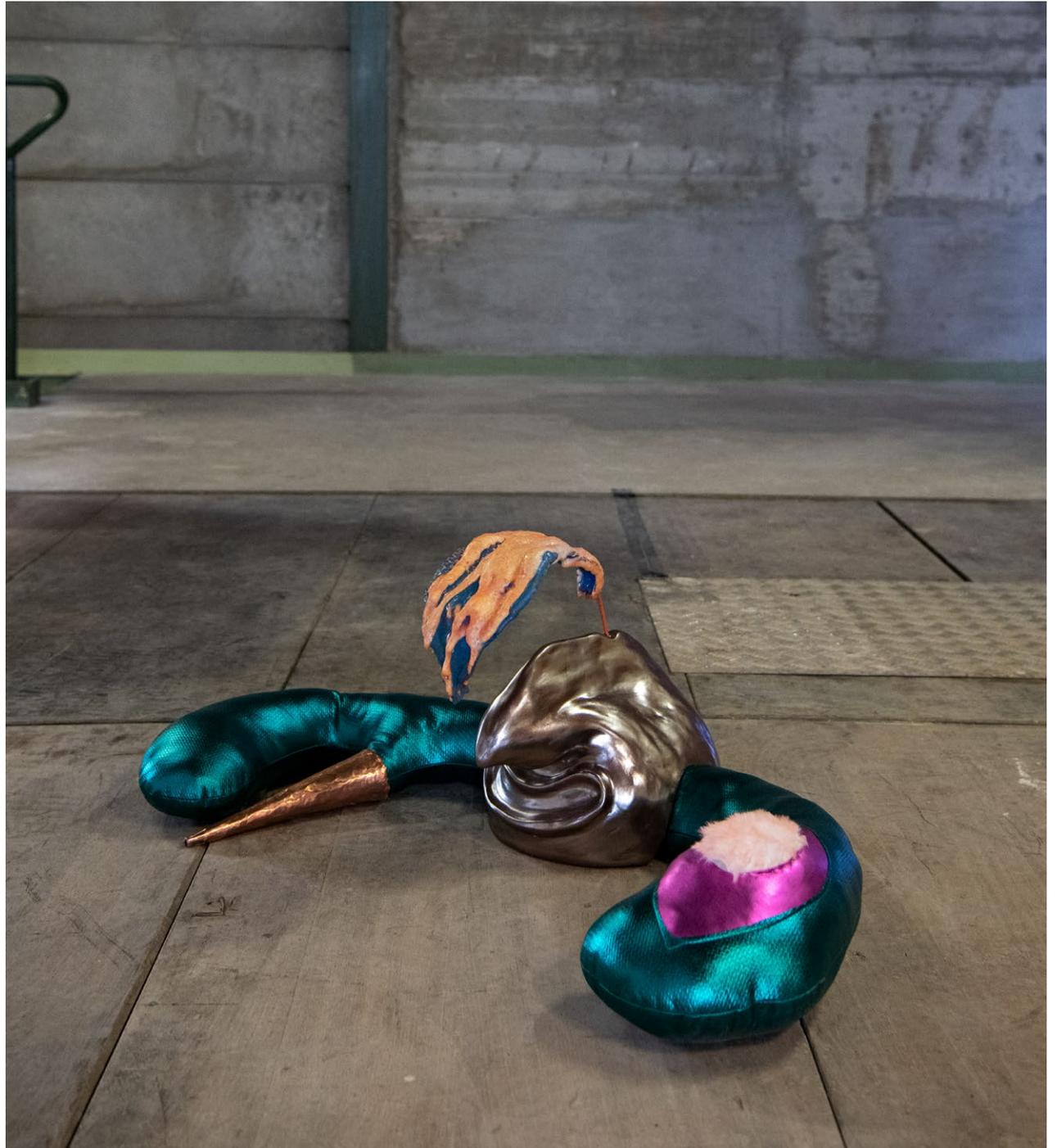
metal, ceramic, foam, wood, resin, textile, plastic

56 x 59 x 7 cm

My dizziness and I (2021)

Textile, glazed ceramic, foam, metal, copper

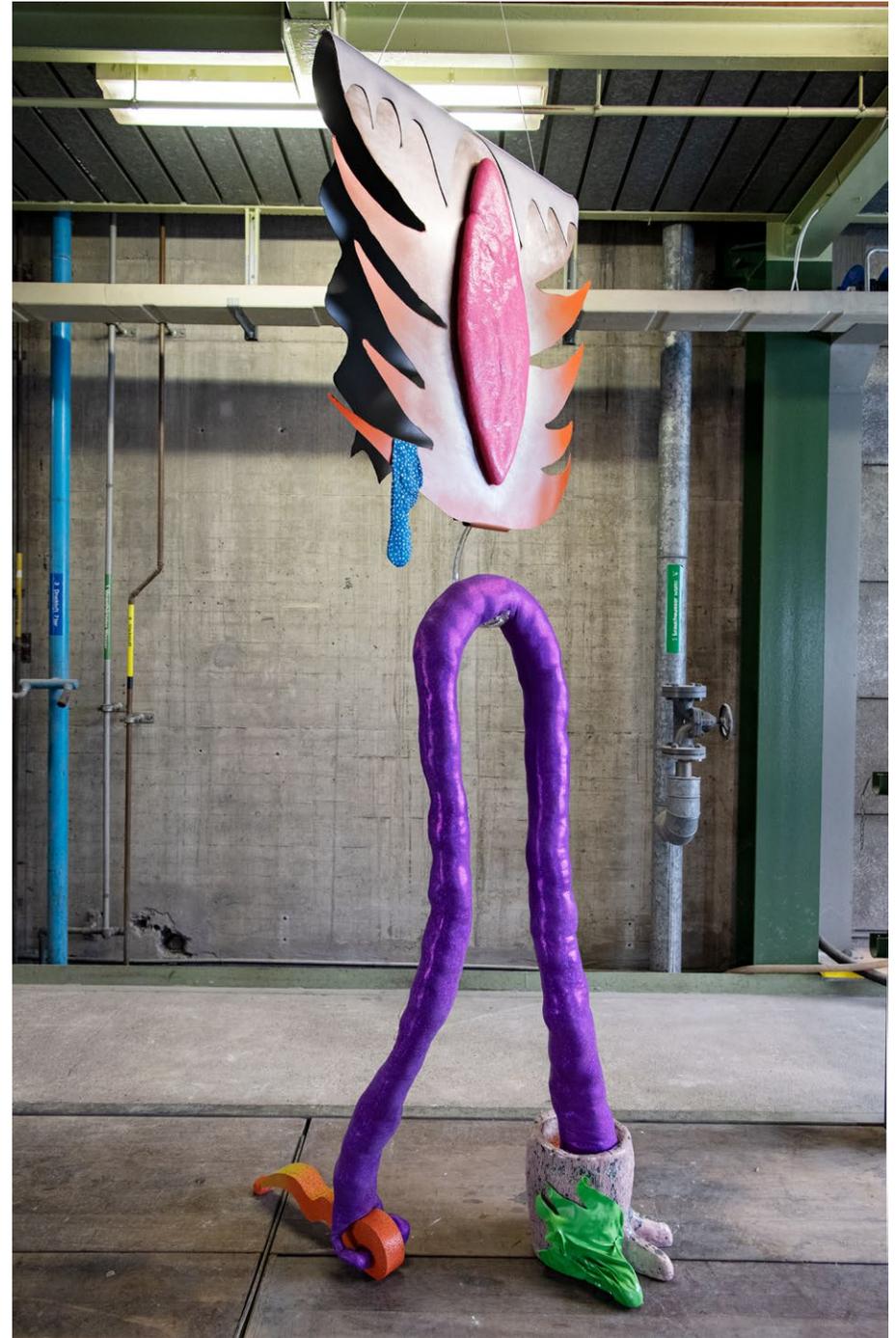
67 x 34 x 40 cm



The cyclope (2021)

*Textile, glazed ceramic, foam, metal, glass, plastic,
wood, pearl clay, fimo, fake leather, spray paint*

240 x 112 x 70 cm





Pinch me (2021)

15 watercolours on paper

26 X 26 cm

This series of watercolours is focused on my interest on body's boundaries. Because of the limitations due to the pandemic, I had to rethink my performance practice. I decided, therefore, to develop on paper potential performances, where sculptures and bodies merge together.



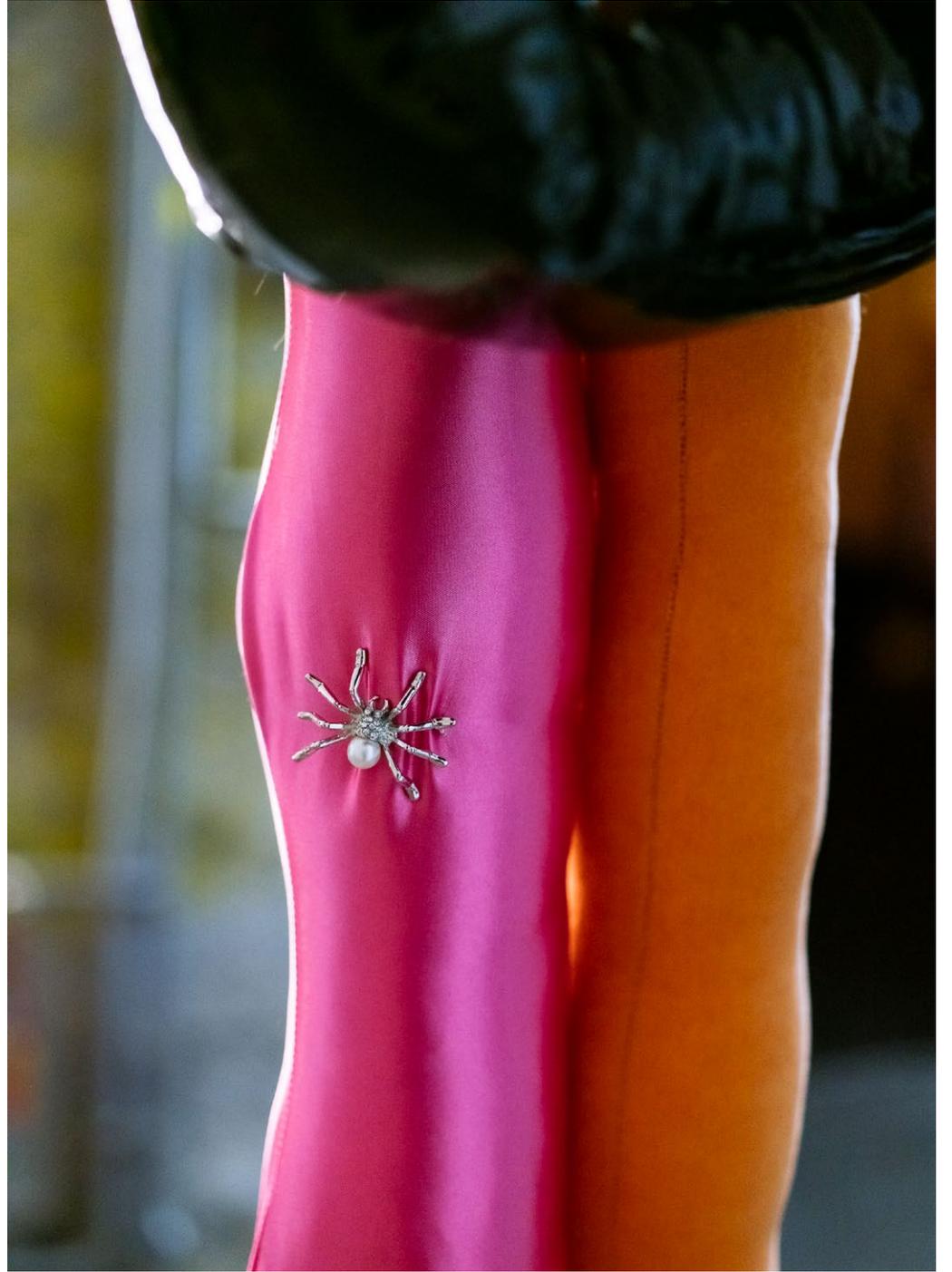




I tear me down rather than saying I need you (2020)

Textile, padding, ceramic, wood, resin, polystyrene, bracelets and pins









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EDUCATION

2018/ongoing
Practice-based PhD - Wits University (Johannesburg ZA)

2014/2017
Master in Fine Arts - Zurich University of the Arts (Zurich CH)

SOLO SHOWS

2022
Tinnitus - text by Camille Regli - Material (Zurich)

2018
I was shaking and it was fine - curator Sara Izzo - Kunstraum Aarau (Aarau)

2015
The Lion sleeps tonite - curated by Anne Laure Franchette - Tart Gallery (Zurich)

2013
Skins - exhibition text Elisa Tosoni - Station 21 (Zurich)
Tomorrow, maybe I will still be the same - curator Daniele Capra - A+A (Venice)

2012
Nibiru with Sabina Grasso - text by Francesco Ragazzi Urbano - Mars (Milano)
Darker with the day - text by Francesco Ragazzi Urbano - Interno4 (Bologna)

GRANTS

2019
Werkstipendium Stadt Zürich

2016
Avina Stiftung (Zurich)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS / PERFORMANCES

2022
Werkschau - Haus Konstruktiv (Zurich)
Die unterbrochene Reise - curator Lorenzo Metzler - Haus am See (Unterägeri)
Terra Incognita - curator Andrea Marioni - Praxis (Basel)
Living Room - curator Andrea Lerda (Cuneo IT)
Nach dem Winter taut der Schnee - Hrúze Gegi (Winterthur)

2021
Grosse Regionale - curator Irene Grillo - Alte Fabrik (Rapperswill)
A Novanta Theater Production co-produced by Fabriktheater and Südpol Luzern
Werk und Atelier Stipendium 2021 - Helmaus (Zurich)
Stitches: Scènes, corps, decors - curators Gabrielle Boder, Tadeo Kohan, Camille Regli
Le Commun (Geneve)
Calvinism - Hrúze Gegi - (Winterthur)

2020
Intra-Muros festival - curator Merly Knoerle - (Winterthur)
S.H.T.F. the trilogy - curator Simon Maurer - Helmhaus (Zurich)
Gasträume/Art in public space - curator Cristoph Doswald - (Zurich)
Inkubator 2020 - Fabrik Theater (Zurich)
Performance lecture - Artistic Research Africa Conference - Wits University (Johannesburg)
Artmangeddon with David Knuckney - Espace Libre (Biel)
Performance A Novanta within the exhibition Her take - Photoforum Pasquart (Biel)

2019
Residency showing - Südpol (Luzern)
Prémère S.H.T.F. Second Chapter - Cabaret Voltaire (Zurich)
Pitseng festival - curator Gaby Saranouffi (Johannesburg)
Werk und Atelier Stipendium 2019 - Helmaus (Zurich)
S.H.T.F. the prologue (le sauvage) performance - Kulturfolger (Zurich)
Withdraw*2 - curator Katja Baumhoff / Josip Zanchi - Meštrović Pavilion (Zagreb)

2018
Withdraw - curator Katja Baumhoff/ Josip Zanchi - Shed Eisenwerk (Frauenfeld)
S.H.T.F. - performance - curated by Material - Haus Konstruktiv (Zurich)
In the tower of plastic feelings with Nina Emge - Klara Kiss offspace (Zurich)
It's not about power it's about comfort zone - Lecture/Performance - Corner College (Zurich)

2017
ZHDK master degree show - curators Judith Welter and Ian Wooldridge
Carnage - curator Francesca Brusa - Museum Rietberg (Zurich)
Entführung- curators Lukas Keller and Irene Hediger - Zoological Museum (Zurich)