

ROBERT MORAT GALERIE

Lena Amuat & Zoë Meyer

*1977 & 1975, CH

Going against the surge of digital, Swiss artist duo Lena Amuat & Zoë Meyer embrace analogue and the “hand-made” – from dark-room printing to carefully prepared color backdrops and hand-painted frames that they build themselves.

The series “Artefakte und Modelle” is a collection of objects that embody the human struggle for knowledge. Over twelve years in the making and numbering hundreds of images, the project inventories the models, artefacts, natural specimens and teaching objects that the two women have unearthed traveling to search through the archives and collections of European universities and natural history museums.

However, with information and provenance entirely exorcised from their titles, we are left knowing almost nothing factual about each of the photographed items: not the collection they belong to or the place of that archive; nor when they date from, who made or found them or how they came to be collected; nor any explanation as to the ideas, theories and natural laws that each of the models apparently embodies. Instead, they are left to communicate through the power of their visual identity alone.

Each of the selected objects is treated to the artists’ mobile photo studio where they are sympathetically posed in front of colored paper backdrops (sometimes assembled with other items, but most often standing alone), seductively lit and skillfully shot.

A book to the series has been published by About Books in 2021.

Lena Amuat (*1977, CH) & Zoë Meyer (*1975, CH) live and work in Zurich and Berlin. They both graduated from the University of the Arts in Zurich and collaborate since 2008.

Selected Exhibitions

2022	L’Ahah, Paris, France
2022	The Eye Sees, Arles, France
2019	“Krypta”, Grossmünster Zurich, Switzerland
2016	“Recollection”, Grand Palais, Bern, Switzerland
2016	“Histoire des formes”, Amilly, France
2015	“The Crossings”, Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France
2013	“It’s all in the Detail”, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, Switzerland
2012	“Purple Room”, Wäscherei Kunstverein, Zurich, Switzerland
2012	Cantonale Berne Jura, Centre Pasquart Biel, Switzerland
2011	Cantonale Berne Jura, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland

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Prizes

2017	Prix Photoforum, Centre Pasquart Biel (Nominee)
2015	Studio grant, Zurich/New York
2014	Plattform 14 (Nominee)
2014	Nationale Suisse Kunstpreis (Nominee)
2013	Start Point Prize (Nominee)
2012	Swiss Design Award

Publications

- “Kristallmodelle”, About Books, Zurich, Switzerland, 2024
- “Mathematische Modelle 2019-2024, Band 3”, About Books, Zurich, Switzerland, 2024
- “Artefakte und Modelle, 2009-2021”, About Books, Zurich, Switzerland, 2021
- “Krypta”, self-published, 2019
- “Mathematische Modelle 2016-2018, Band 2”, self-published, 2018
- “Mathematische Modelle 2009-2015, Band 1”, self-published, 2015
- “Konfiszierte Objekte”, self-published, 2011

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