

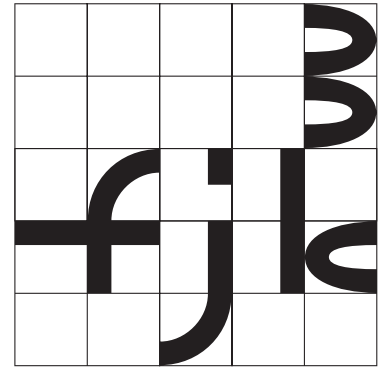
fjk3 – Contemporary Art Space

Franz-Josefs-Kai 3
1010 Wien, Austria

Liesl Raff
Liaison

Opening: Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7 pm
Exhibition: May 24 – Sep 10, 2023

Opening hours:
Wed – Sun: 12.00 noon – 6 pm
Fri: 12.00 noon – 8 pm



Contemporary Art Space

With **Liaison**, her first institutional solo exhibition in Austria, sculptor **Liesl Raff** transforms the exhibition space into a transitory experiential space marked by different atmospheres. For years, the artist has experimented with industrial and natural materials, transforming them into objects with an emotional life of their own. Latex, as a particularly versatile and tactile material, is one of her favorite work materials. Raff applies it over various structures like a second skin. In combination with bamboo tubes, steel rods and ropes, she creates animistic-looking sculptures. Niches, shelters and protective zones evoke a feeling of retreat and security.

On the one hand, Raff uses latex as a painting material: either in its pure form or mixed with color pigments, she applies it thinly with a brush to walls or window panes. Surfaces thus acquire an opalescent appearance and let anything behind or in front of it shimmer through diffusely. On the other hand, the material is processed plastically. Raff pours the liquid onto a large floor area and, subsequent to the drying process, she peels off rubber sheets into which traces and irregularities of the floor surface are permanently inscribed. She folds the resulting translucent skins and turns them into massive, voluminous curtains or mounts them on steel rods to create objects reminiscent of banners or protective shields. In a concentrated and time-consuming process, the artist often casts thousands of colored latex strings, which are then woven and knotted together. Combining latex and ropes, she produces tentacles with an almost animistic appearance. Slung over bamboo canes or hung from steel rods, they convey an impression of physical vibrancy.

The artist has transformed another area of the exhibition into an installation setting oscillating between vaudeville theater and underground pub:

Club Liaison, with its stage and bar, is dominated by lushly draped latex sheets, oversized glasses, and dimmed lighting. Works conceived together with Nora Rekade and Bartholomaeus Wächter as well as „stools" by Eva Seiler are part of the installation. On eight evenings during the **Wiener Festwochen** the wicked and subversive, the melancholic and absurd will find a safe place with performances, live concerts and dance.

Liesl Raff, born 1979 in Stuttgart, lives and works in Vienna. She presented her works in solo exhibitions at Sophie Tappeiner, Vienne; Nicolas Krupp, Basel; NEVVEN, Gothenburg; Biennale Freiburg; Sharp Projects, Copenhagen; among others, as well as in numerous group shows including *Avantgarde und Gegenwart*, Belvedere 21, Vienna; *Enjoy – the mumok Collection in Change*, mumok, Vienna or *Risentimento/ Ressentiment*, Kunst Meran.

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Curator: Fiona Liewehr