



Installation view *Angelika Loderer. Soil Fictions*, © Bildrecht, Wien 2024
photo: Kunst-Dokumentation.com, Manuel Carreon Lopez

Vienna, March 5, 2024

Belvedere 21

Arsenalstrasse 1
1030 Vienna

Regular opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday

11 am to 6 pm

Evening hours:

Thursdays, 11 am to 9 pm

Only open on Mondays that are also
public holidays

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ANGELIKA LODERER SOIL FICTIONS

6 March to 15 September 2024

At Belvedere 21, Angelika Loderer has devised an installation in which the soil, along with its ecological, economic, political, and cultural narratives, becomes the literal "common ground."

In the words of General Director Stella Rollig: *Angelika Loderer is one of the most exciting Austrian sculptors of her generation. Her oeuvre revolves around the Earth as a habitat and its ecosystem, imperiled by human activity. After her work was featured in two Belvedere exhibitions since 2019, Belvedere 21 is now exhibiting her first solo show in a museum.*

The artist, born in 1984 in Feldbach, Styria, is one of the most internationally recognized Austrian sculptors today. By unconventionally adapting traditional sculptural techniques, she has honed her own vocabulary of forms and materials, with which she delves into the soil and explores its many functions, from habitat to time capsule. Loderer has long been fascinated by the subterranean world and the stories lurking there, by the tension between the visible and hidden, between the ephemeral and the permanent. These themes permeate her work. Interrogating the very concept of sculpture, and specifically its ideas of form-finding and authorship, Loderer often seeks creative dialogue with non-human creatures whose habitats are underground. She appropriates burrows and tunnels created by animals, for example, or uses mycelia and their growth processes as materially transformative design elements. Her approach carves out space: not only for random chance in the artistic process, but for a post-humanist coexistence of creatures. The results are hybrids of animal- and human-made, functional and artistic, fact and fiction.

The curator Verena Gamper explains: *With Soil Fictions, Loderer has accomplished an impressive feat: putting her own oeuvre to date under the microscope, as it were, while presenting a set of almost exclusively new works. Her reflection on the soil as a habitat and space of activity for many entities should also be read as a call for us humans to redefine our own role: no longer as the designers with dominion over the Earth, but as part of a community of living beings.*

In *Soil Fictions*, Angelika Loderer carpets a single stage with an assortment of forms and materials, and we are initially perplexed by the show's equal treatment of all the objects on display. All the objects—metal or wax, plaster or clay, video screen or cast sculpture, artifact or found object—are arrayed right on the floor of the exhibition space. They all have strong connections to the ground: either as shapes wrested out of subterranean invisibility, or as objects that were found under or on the ground.

Some of the pieces are minuscule, such as cricket holes cast out of plaster or wasps' nests made of mud, which only reveal their architectural precision upon very close inspection. Another piece entices us with a glistening bronze surface before we discover it is a cast of a snake run over on the road. Humans in *Soil Fictions* are just one of many players, present only through traces: concretely in a preserved imprint of a touch, indirectly as the creators of artifacts or the initiators of processes. Instead, other players enter the stage with their own formal and material criteria: the mud dauber wasp with its miniature architectures, the woodpecker with its burrow cast in wax, the mole with its complex underground tunnels that become visible as metal or plaster casts. Each object on display resists rapid recognition or categorization because of its shape, size, material, or fragmentation. Moreover, by eschewing pedestals, the exhibition eliminates any hierarchy. With this staged equality of the object on display, as a picture of coexistence among living creatures, Loderer's artistic practice distinguishes itself as a timely and powerful contribution to contemporary discourse on the Anthropocene, its consequences, and alternatives.

CATALOGUE

Angelika Loderer. Soil Fictions

Editors: Stella Rollig, Verena Gamper

Authors: Verena Gamper, Layet Johnson & Angelika Loderer, Stella Rollig, Nora S. Vaage

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EDITION

For her exhibition *Soil Fictions*, Angelika Loderer has created an edition in collaboration with Laura Estermann, consisting of six different sets of ten press-on gel nails each. Earth, metal dust, dead insects or patterns reminiscent of bacterial cultures cover the gel nails. The surface of the nails acts as a canvas which - in addition to the *Soil Fictions* exhibition - opens up a narrative space relating the underground and the stories lurking there.

Soil Fictions, 2024

Angelika Loderer in cooperation with Laura Estermann

6 sets (unique pieces) of 10 press-on gel nails each

1/6 – *Schüttloch (Gips)*

2/6 – *Dust (Studio)*

3/6 – *Me Digging*

4/6 – *How Metall Comes to Earth*

5/6 – *Vanished Insects (Studio)*

6/6 – *Organisms*

Available from 5 March 2024 at the museum shop of the Belvedere 21

Retail price: 250 € per set

BIOGRAPHY ANGELIKA LODERER

Born 1984 in Feldbach, Styria. 2006–11 studied sculpture with Erwin Wurm at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Study visits to Hendrix College, Arkansas (2005–06) and Wimbledon College of Arts, London (2009).

Winner of the first Dagmar Chobot Sculpture Prize in 2016 and the Cardinal König Art Prize in 2019. Solo exhibitions (selection): Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin (2023); Sophie Tappeiner, Vienna (2022); Grazer Kunstverein (2018); Secession, Vienna (2017); Salzburger Kunstverein (2016); Dortmunder Kunstverein (2015); Akademie Graz (2013). Group exhibitions (selection): Albertina, Vienna (2024); Thaddeus Ropac, Paris (2024); Albertina Modern, Vienna (2024); Kunsthalle Bratislava (2023); Kunstraum Dornbirn; Museum der Moderne Salzburg (2022); New Museum, New York; MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; Kunsthaus Graz (2021); Belvedere 21, Vienna (2019); El Quinto Piso, Mexico City (2017).

Works in the collections of (selection): Austrian Galerie Belvedere, Vienna; Albertina, Vienna; MAK — Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; Museum der Moderne Salzburg; Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz; Kunsthaus Bregenz; Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz.

LIST OF WORKS

- Angelika Loderer, *Schüttloch (2)*, 2023, aluminium, 132 × 61 × 40 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Schüttloch (2)*, 2022, bronze, 118 × 52 × 25 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Schüttloch (6)*, 2022, bronze, 102,5 × 54 × 27 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Schüttloch (6)*, 2012, aluminium, 56 × 80 × 42 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Investigate (1)*, 2023, bronze, 48,5 × 23 × 34 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Investigate (2)*, 2024, bronze, 53 × 24 × 15 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Investigate (3)*, 2024, bronze, 37 × 60 × 26 cm, 31,5 × 24 × 11 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Roadkill (Sparrow)*, 2023, bronze, 16,5 × 12 × 6 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Roadkill (Hedgehog)*, 2023, bronze, 24 × 20 × 5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Roadkill (Snake)*, 2023, bronze, 33 × 18 × 5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Roadkill (Blackbird)*, 2023, brass, 27 × 19 × 5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Angeliki*, 2024, brass, steel, 14 × 76 × 4,5 cm²
- Angelika Loderer, *Schüttloch (Gips 1) to Schüttloch (Gips 36)*, 2023, plaster, 5 × 9,5 × 35 to approx. 100 × 60 × 20 cm^{1 or 2}
- Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Cricket 1)*, 2023, plaster, 8 × 5 × 11 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Cricket 2)*, 2023, plaster, 7 × 6,5 × 10 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Cricket 3)*, 2023, plaster, 7 × 6,5 × 10,5 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Bone 1)*, 2023, cattle bone, 9,5 × 23,3 × 34,5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Bone 2)*, 2023, cattle bone, 9,5 × 12 × 11 cm²
- Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Wasp 1)*, 2023, clay, 2 × 4,5 × 7 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Wasp 2)*, 2023, clay, 2 × 4 × 8,5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Wasp 3)*, 2023, clay, 2 × 2,5 × 5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Wasp 4)*, 2023, clay, 2 × 4 × 4,5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Wasp 5)*, 2023, clay, 4 × 6 × 4 cm²
- Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Woodpecker II)*, 2023, wax, 13,5 × 20 × 37 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Woodpecker III)*, 2023, wax, 57,5 × 19 × 14 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled (Woodpecker IV)*, 2023, wax, 10 × 18 × 57 cm²
- Angelika Loderer, *Untitled*, 2023, Glas, Holz, mushroom mycelium, 31 × Ø 8,5 cm²
 Angelika Loderer, *Untitled*, 2023, Glas, Holz, mushroom mycelium, 31 × Ø 8,5 cm²
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- Angelika Loderer, *Moth Trap*, 2024, steel, plastic, wood, m. mycelium, C-prints, 100,5 × 7 × 10,2 cm¹
 Angelika Loderer, *Evening Flood*, 2024, steel, plastic, wood, m. mycelium, C-prints, 93 × 7 × 10,2 cm¹
- Angelika Loderer, *When Days Turn Me*, 2023, wood, 13 × 17 × 61 cm²
- Angelika Loderer, *Parallel*, 2008, 2-channel video installation, PAL, colour, sound, 13:29 Min.²
- Angelika Loderer, *Insomnia*, 2024, sand, 92 × 84 × 7,5 cm²

¹ Courtesy Sophie Tappeiner

² Courtesy Angelika Loderer

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	Angelika Loderer
Curator	Verena Gamper
Assistant curator	Anna Dyrko
Duration	6 March to 15 September, 2024
Location	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm Late night: Thursday 11 am to 9 pm Open Mondays on holidays
Tickets	Regular €9.30 online, €11 on-site Discounted €6.90 online, €8 on-site Belvedere Annual Ticket €44 Children and youth up to the age of 18 free
Web	belvedere.at facebook.com/belvedere21 X.com/belvedere21 instagram.com/belvedere21wien #AngelikaLoderer

The exhibition is the Belvedere's contribution to the Klima Biennale Wien.

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos, please visit belvedere.at/en/press.