

Under The Curse

K A L I
G A L L E R Y

Maya Hottarek | Jürgen Baumann | Manutcher Milani
27.05. – 30.06.2022

"Under the Curse" is a group exhibition by three young Swiss artists*; Maya Hottarek (Biel), Manutcher Milani (Zurich) and Jürgen Baumann (Winterthur).

The early modern witch trials occupy a unique place in public perception, a contested space where facts are routinely adjusted to serve agendas. The impetus for the exhibition was an article about the emergence of an artistic style reflecting on the era of witchcraft and the contemporary world, focusing on gender in art:

"The Return of the Witch in Contemporary Culture"
from the 2018 Frieze art catalog.



The title of the exhibition is based on the themes the artists address, as they all share a magical curse under which they create and understand the contemporary world around them. Their work focuses on contemporary art in mixed media and crosses boundaries from conceptual works to traditional craft materials to new media and performance.

These three artists* are among the most prominent representatives of this magical contemporary art style with a touch of super cultural influences. Although they are young artists, their path through art is already marked and they have quickly gained a good place in the art scene thanks to their specific style. Their artistic themes and works combine randomly and find very impressive paths with a unique signature.

Like walking through a magical valley, everything is organic but retains legible forms, familiar shapes and the outlines of things change their character under whatever curse. It is as if everything is floating on a strange, alien cloud. This artistic

direction could refer to today's time, when everything is infected with a virus and everyone and everything changes its face and character under its power. Objects and places that are familiar to us are in fact something completely different from what they are when the power of magic controls them.