

# Mayday

Maude Léonard-  
Contant und  
Marta Margnetti  
Knuckles Down  
19.9.–31.10.2021

In the exhibition “Knuckles Down”, Maude Léonard-Contant (\*1979) and Marta Margnetti (\*1989) enter into dialogue with one another.

Their show is titled after the starting position of the fingers when playing marbles. The game served as motif and method underlying the new works that the two artists conceived for this exhibition space. They exchanged thoughts on memories of objects and materials as well as the survival of childhood sensations and feelings, particularly the way in which they are physically inscribed. Their enquiries led to works that represent a meeting between opposing qualities: functional and decorative, technical and organic, animalistic and anthropomorphic.

Two steel silhouettes of hands with blue oxidised fingers hold on to the handrail. They are intertwined with ceramic beads, like blueberries, strung on horsehair (**No one by one – fiercely**, 2021). Marbles lining the walls (**Bucètt**, 2021) look as if they had been forgotten in play. The artist collected them from an incinerator as revealed by their cracked, broken and no longer shiny appearance. The careful choice and processing of materials in Léonard-Contant’s sculpture **Soapboxing** (2021) appears to target a coherent syntax, but this is contradicted by the wooden ineptitude of the two alabaster figures. Margnetti’s shopping nets **Contrarre, cadavere, rimedio, drenare** (2021), soaked in charcoal and beeswax, look like solidified, leached bodies with permeable hollow spaces conjuring placeholders of an inner life.

Vessel, container and shell, base and foot, body and prosthesis – the objects tell of presence and absence, loss of function or misguided experiments, the linguistic and the prelinguistic. Traces of transformation by fire and water, of wear and tear and refinement invest them with new auratic qualities.

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**Maude Léonard-Contant**, born in Joliette (CA) in 1979, lives and works in Basel. She studied art at the Université du Québec in Montréal, Concordia University, Montréal and the Glasgow School of Art. Her work has been shown in exhibitions at Kunsthaus Baselland, Ausstellungsraum Klingenthal, Basel, Herrmann Germann Contemporary, Zurich and Kunstraum Riehen. She is the winner of the Art Prize of the Lucerne Art Society 2019, associated with a solo exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Luzern, and the Cristina Spoerri Prize 2020.

[www.maudeleonardcontant.com](http://www.maudeleonardcontant.com)

**Marta Margnetti**, born in Mendrisio in 1989, lives and works in Lugano. She completed her Bachelor's degree at the Haute École d'art et de design (HEAD) in Geneva and a Master's degree at the Hochschule der Künste (HKB) in Bern. In 2017, Margnetti received the Kiefer Hablitzel/Göhner Art Prize. In 2020, she was awarded the Ticino Manor Art Prize, where the associated solo exhibition was held at MASILugano. Margnetti has been represented in various group exhibitions, including at Kunsthaus Baselland, Aargauer Kunsthhaus and Kunsthalle Basel. Currently she is doing a studio residency at the Istituto Svizzero in Rome.

[www.martamargnetti.com](http://www.martamargnetti.com)

## **Opening hours**

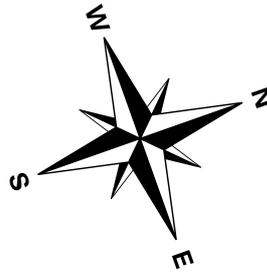
during the Art Basel week  
21–26 September  
from 2–6 p.m.

Afterwards every Sunday, 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 October  
from 2–6 p.m.  
or by appointment ([info@maydaymaydaymayday.ch](mailto:info@maydaymaydaymayday.ch))

Thanks to

Maude Léonard-Contant thanks Benvenuto Saba, Giorgio Pecchioni, Jürg Bader, Sandra Häuptli and Maya Thommen  
Marta Margnetti thanks Giada O., Camilla P., Nicolas R., Giacomo G. and Complice Press Lugano

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Marta Margnetti

1. **Una stella sulla punta della lingua**  
Found object, 2021
  2. **Promessa a quattro zampe**  
Beeswax by Vico Morcote, chlorella, ceramic, paper, ink, 2021
  3. **Blumenkrone**  
Polyester rope, thread, ceramic, 2021
  4. **Nodo**  
Rope, string, beeswax by Vico Morcote, charcoal, graphite, 2021
  7. **Contrarre, cadavere, rimedio, drenare**  
Textiles, beeswax by Vico Morcote, charcoal, 2021
- spread on the floor:  
**Bucètt**  
Marbles, 2021

Maude Léonard-Contant

5. **Soapboxing**  
Alabaster, veneer wood, wood, shellac, ink, tulle, 2021
6. **Cum Grano Salis**  
Lick stone, 2021
8. **Untitled**  
Ceramics, 2021
9. **No one by one – fiercely**  
Chrome steel, porcelain, Horsehair, 2021

Mayday  
Hafenstrasse 25  
4057 Basel

