

Mayday

Toni Schmale
watersports
9.4.-17.5.2022

Opening:
Saturday, 9 April 2022, 5 p.m.

Event:
Tuesday, 17 May 2022, 7 p.m.
Performance by Nils Amadeus
Lange and Mario Espinoza

Opening hours:
10, 17, 24 April
1, 8, 15 May
from 14–18 h
or by appointment

Toni Schmale's sculptural work reminds one of machines, apparatuses or training devices for the conditioning of the human body. Through the precise use of materials such as steel, concrete or rubber, the objects take on an imaginative life of their own—their dysfunctionality has a certain resistance and can be understood as a critique of existing power structures.

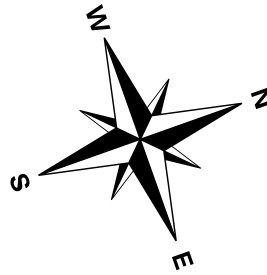
In the solo exhibition "watersports" at Mayday, Toni Schmale shows new site-specific works that create various references to the harbour, which is located in the immediate vicinity of the exhibition space. Beyond its embedding in the much-invoked romanticism of the port, her interest lies in the aesthetics of a male-dominated working environment, the equipment used to transport goods and the industrial forms of shipbuilding: deformed and seemingly saggy pipes protrude from large-format galvanised sheets, a massive grid construction with a round opening and powder-coated rollers made of steel dominate the tiled room that used to serve as a locker room for workers of the shipping company. The objects have a hybrid appearance, their function remains uncertain. Situated somewhere between industrial design, fitness equipment, torture devices and fetish furniture, they refer to the human body and allow us to imagine actions that can be performed on or with them. In these speculative narratives, power, desire and physical discipline overlap—and are undermined in their unambiguity.

Toni Schmale, born 1980 in Hamburg, lives and works in Vienna. She studied at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig and at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Vienna.

Her work has been shown at the Kyiv Biennial Kiev/UKR, the 56th October Salon, Belgrade Biennial/RS and the Art Biennial, Labin/HR. Solo exhibitions, among others, at the Vienna Secession; Christine König Galerie, Vienna/AT; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead/UK; nGbK, Berlin/DE and Neuer Kunstverein Vienna/AT. The exhibition at Mayday is her first in Switzerland.

Toni Schmale thanks: Wally Salner, Catharina Wronn and Helene Baur.

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- 1. **watersports**
galvanised steel, powder-coated steel RAL 9016, 2022
- 2. **schlauch #1**
Forged and galvanised steel, 2022
- 3. **schlauch #2**
Forged and galvanised steel, 2022

