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Press release

Surface, Structure, Form: The Poetics of Materials

171 GALLERY, Pfistergasse 15, 6003 Luzern

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Surface, Structure, Form: The Poetics of Materials brings together works by Therese Weber, Hugo Fontela, Keiko Kimoto, and Reinaldo Sanguino in a multilayered dialogue on materiality and perception. Surface, structure, and form are foregrounded not merely as formal categories, but as constitutive elements of artistic practice.

Working across ceramic, paper, and canvas, the four artists approach material not as passive support, but as an active agent within the artistic process. Qualities such as density, fragility, porosity, and resistance are deliberately engaged to unfold visual, tactile, and temporal dimensions. The works operate within a tension between presence and process, visibility and withdrawal.

Therese Weber's practice is rooted in pulp painting, treating paper as a malleable, almost organic substance. Through layering, embedding, and compression, her works dissolve the distinction between ground and form, allowing surface to become a site of inscription where materiality and temporality converge.

Hugo Fontela's painting unfolds within a field shaped by image, memory, and atmosphere. Drawing from landscape, he transforms visual impressions into reduced, layered compositions that oscillate between figuration and abstraction. Through processes of layering, erasure, and subtle modulation, his works evoke contemplative states and resist fixed interpretation.

Reinaldo Sanguino's ceramic works foreground transformation and material intensity. Positioned between vessel and sculpture, they challenge traditional distinctions between art and functionality. His expressive handling of clay results in dynamic, color-rich forms that extend ceramic practice into a painterly and sculptural domain.

Keiko Kimoto's works are defined by a precise and reduced visual language. Balancing abstraction and figuration, her compositions evoke a sense of suspended temporality. Through subtle interventions, her work opens perceptual fields between the visible and the implied, inviting quiet contemplation.

Together, the works form a polyphonic constellation in which distinct artistic languages are brought into productive relation. The exhibition understands material as a relational field in which meaning is continuously shaped through perception, transformation, and encounter.



THERESE WEBER

Therese Weber lives and works in Switzerland. She studied Fine Arts in Switzerland, the USA, and Japan, developing a practice that moves between painting and object. Her work is process-oriented and explores material, structure, and transformation within the tension between precision and spontaneity. Through repetition, layering, and an intensive engagement with the spaces in between, she allows the material to participate in shaping the creation of her works. Her compositions unfold through rhythm and tactility, navigating between control and chance. Her works have been shown in numerous exhibitions in Switzerland and internationally and are held in private as well as institutional collections, including regional public collections in Switzerland.

KEIKO KIMOTO

Keiko Kimoto lives and works in Toyooka, Japan. She studied Fine Arts at the University of the Arts Berlin and has exhibited widely across Japan and Europe. Her paintings are defined by a sensitive balance between gesture and stillness, using intuitive and precise brushwork to capture fleeting moments. Her work reflects an ongoing dialogue between Eastern and Western traditions, engaging with perception and transience. Her works are included in public and private collections such as the National Art Center, Tokyo, and international private collections.