

Portfolio Dimitrina Sevova

+41-79-792 77 44

sevo@kein.org

Instagram: dimitrina_sevova

Instagram: dimitrina_studio

dimitrina-sevova.art

dimitrinasevova.academia.edu

Studio address:

Spinnereiweg 2

8307 Effretikon

Artist Statement Dimitrina Sevova



Studio view. Me with objects that came fresh from the kiln

Dimitrina Sevova's artistic practices are situated in the space that collapses between painting and sculpture. She experiments with different stages of clay and the fragility of the material, from hand-built or cast ceramic or porcelain objects and vessels to sculptures and environments of ephemeral wall paintings of raw clay slip mixed with pigments. She is concerned with expanding painting, looking to achieve cracking or unusual surfaces. As in alchemy, working with these materials requires a mutual affinity between the artist and the material. Her works are often shown in site-specific and contextual installations that use various additional media, from found objects, drawings, photography or time-based media, involving strategies of play to reflect current technological dispositives. Research is a method and a way of creating based on scientific realism with its objective reality, which Sevova translates through her imagination into ambiguous, performative, subjective states of matters and objects. In her work, she shifts her perspective between two systems, on the one hand the representational models and figurative fictions and on the other the abstract, concrete, and performative qualities of reality and materiality itself. Between micro and macro, a mysterious manifestation of natural and technological magic underlines the dark undertone of poetic ecologies and earthly muds.

The motto of her practices is deskill craft, re-skill art to reconnect thinking with making.

Short bio Dimitrina Sevova

Born in Varna, Bulgaria. Lives and works in Zurich. Holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK and completed a MAS Curating from the Institute for Cultural Studies at the ZHdK. Previously graduated from the painting class of Prof Andrei Daniel at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia with an MFA. Works installatively with site specificity, mainly with ceramic sculpture, found objects, and painting.

Education / Degrees

2020: Master of Fine Arts at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Zürich

2018: Diploma, International Curatorial Program CuratorLab, Konstfack University, Stockholm, Sweden

2012: MAS Curating at the Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

1998: Completed six years of study in Fine Arts and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts, National Academy of Arts, Sofia, specialization in painting in the class of Prof. Andrei Daniel

Awards and Scholarships (selection)

2025 (upcoming): Artist in Residence (2 months), Lilly Keller Stiftung, Thusis, Switzerland

2021-2022: Akku Uster one-year studio program (scholarship), Uster, Switzerland

2020-2021: One-year studio program and scholarship Atelier Herdern, Z-Kubator/ ZHdK, Zürich. (Today, the program is called What's next_Compass ZHdK.)

Public collections

2022: Art collection of the City of Zürich

Solo exhibitions (last three years)

2023: *Innerfaces – Der Gang durch den Irrgarten*, solo exhibition, Villa Grunholzer, Uster, Switzerland

2022: Akku Kunstkiste N° 47, Zellwegerpark, Uster, Switzerland, solo exhibition *when a whale is a lake, its surface reflects deep time*

Group exhibition (selection from the last three years)

2025: *Earthly Things – Ghostly Matters*, Zeughausareal Uster, Switzerland (upcoming)

2025: *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich

2024: *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze II*, as part of the exhibition *Seeing Is Believing*, de Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain

2024: *Resonanzkörper*, Waschraum, on the premises of Swiss Railways main repair facilities, Zürich

2024: *Hartdurm 12*, Hartdurm, artist-run project space, Zürich (three-person exhibition)

2024: *Eternal Elements*, Complex 156, Zürich

2023: *The Blood of a Poet. Meta-m-orphosis*, @theoff.space, Zürich

2023: *Interwoven in the Anthropocene*, Kunstraum Uster, Uster, Switzerland

2023: *Soft Diagrams – Play and Work. (Re)Productive Turn(s) – running after its own tail*, INDUSTRA ART, Brno, Czech Republic

2023: *über natürliche kräfte*, kuratiert von Damian Christinger, Cularta, Laax, Switzerland

2022: *Last words of the periphery III*, @theoff.space, Zürich

2022: *akku panorama*, Zeughaus K2, Uster, Switzerland

2022: *Last words of the periphery II*, @theoff.space, Zürich

Peperudcho, Bozha Kravichka – Gregor, And My Other Significant Otherness, 2025

Sculptural installation of hand-built, sculptural ceramic objects, paintings on freestanding canvas with chains and ceramic elements. Dimensions variable.



Peperudcho, Bozha Kravichka – Gregor, And My Other Significant Otherness, 2025. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich. Photo: Sebastian Stadler

One of a series of insect ceramic sculptures metamorphosing into humans, or humans into insects, where I am engaged with the material form inspired by the material itself, made from the point of view of the specificity of the red Brasil clay. On the other hand, it is also about an imaginary insect or figure. It is a kind of night bug whose melody can be heard in summer nights. It is based on my observations walking in nature, but also shaped by a net of references. The vulnerability of these creatures associates them with ephemera, and most importantly their metamorphosis in both a biological and metaphorical sense.



Peperudcho (Mayfly) with Dreamy Monstera Painting, 2025. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich



The Bones of My Desires and the Noise of the Bugs, 2025. Exhibition view and details in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich



The God of Plants, 2025, in the installation *The Bones of My Desires and the Noise of the Bugs*. Stoneware, hand-built, fired. Detail view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich



Bozha Kravichka (Firebug – Gregor), 2025: Ceramic, stoneware Bodmer GRX10, fired, multiply glazed, hand-built unique piece. Exhibition view and details in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich

My firebug exhibits transgression with two sides, one cute, and one rather scary. I call it Gregor, after Gregor Samsa from Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. Kafka's protagonist wakes up one morning from uneasy dreams to find himself in his bed, transformed into a gigantic insect. The story describes the burnout of a loyal and devoted young man who gives his all to his company and family.



Lux, Sunflowers, and Sweet Dreams, 2024/2025. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich. Photo: Sebastian Stadler

The assemblage consists of a hand-built vessel from black and Ming porcelain, multiply glazed with underglaze to reach a vibrant color intensity, which brings something exaggerated, almost grotesque into this piece that feels like it is almost falling apart but is actually quite strong. The boxes stacked on top of the other are made of stoneware with recognizable engobed patterns. For their form, I used the negative of real shipping cardboard boxes. The pillar of boxes with the vessel on top evoke the material archeological evidence of a refined civilization, with the connotation of ruins from art history from Renaissance to Walter Benjamin's fashion. I also play between sculptural object and expanded painting.

The Map of My Readings and Thoughts, 2025. Stoneware, hand-built vessel, engobed, surface drawn with pin. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space



Vessel. Ceramic, stoneware, engobed, black and Ming porcelain, glazed, fired, hand-built unique piece

Dwellers of the Windy Vessels, 2024

Site-specific installation in the corridors and four cabins of the exhibition space of Waschraum, the former washing room of the Swiss Railways main repair facilities, consisting of hand-built, fired and unfired sculptural ceramic objects, found objects and raw materials, like silk, fabric, beans, rice, painted plinths with grids repeating the tile pattern from the wall and the colors of the space. Dimensions variable.

The ceramic sculptural objects in the installation are inspired by the oldest wind instruments, which are clay vessels. They express the artist's interest in their cultural, historical and psychological dimensions. They are carriers of aesthetics and spirituality, but also transportation containers. By using black ceramics, the artist refers to the concept of noise and parasites in Michel Serres' paradigm. The ceramic objects are a third black body, the mediating agency of a mysterious and tactile character that invites us to play or just exhibits playfulness.



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024

Top left: Ceramic and found objects, unglazed, fired, chains

Top right: *Black Moon and Their Friend*, and *Not Yet A Flute*. Dysfunctional ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed with drawn elements, that mimic musical instruments like drum, rattle, or flute, and yet are able to produce sounds

Bottom left: Ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed, unfired, hand-built unique pieces, raw cereal crops

Bottom right: Raw clay. The sculptural body follows the instructions for making a ceramic flute. The holes, instead of featuring on the body, become multiple abstracted holes on the ends

This part of the site-specific installation *Dwellers of the Windy Vessels* is interactive, open to the audience to play with, and connected to my performance *Can't Unring the Bell*, 2024. The ceramic pieces are made of Bodmer Ton GRX10 stoneware, with small found objects attached to them, such as metal rings or coins in the small ceramic bags that produce noise when shaken.

Cabin II of my site-specific installation *Dwellers of the Windy Vessels* reflects on the history of the exhibition space, Waschraum, as a former bath for the workers in the factory complex of the railways in Zurich at the beginning of the last century. However, the space reminds of the hygienist ideology and how it promoted the connection between cleanliness and health. The soap in the installation is made of animal fat from that period. With its use, I refer to Beuys' use of fat, but also to the interdependency between the factory and the military system, and how fat in the mass production of soap was replaced by detergent during WWII, whose end marks the birth of the new mass consumption society. There is a link between the softness of the soap and its ingredients, and the alchemical aspects of the process of transformation from unfired to fired clay in the raw porcelain ball. This part of my installation is predominantly made of raw clay. The found shell is my phone to the ocean from one of the cabins in the bath. But we know the shell is a symbol in alchemy, and its organic form conveys the spiral and the sacred mathematical code of the golden ratio.



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Cabin I and Cabin II. Ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed, glazed, fired, unfired clay, straw, wasp nest, candy. Raw and fired clay and Ming porcelain, fabric, soap, found objects. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024



Site-specific installation, walls painted with geometric patterns using raw clay and pigments, painted plinths, and ceramic sculptures *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze*. Site-specific installation in two rooms in *Seeing Is Believing*, 2024 at Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain

Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze, 2024

The series of process-based ceramic sculptures *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze* is inspired by Walter Benjamin's psychogeographic practice of the urban flâneur. I sought to apply his phrase "botanizing the asphalt" and develop a method and metaphor for the poetic surface of the inorganic and natural worlds that intertwine and unfold a pattern. During my walks directly on the streets and in the parks, I took the action to collect traces, give the material a direct meaning and context, and record my encounters with found objects and historicize the current time. Later I go to the studio to assemble the various slabs, textures and details. I wonder about the performative aspects of how a ball of clay can be thrown into everyday life.

In a moment of present crisis, I walk with wonder not only through the streets but through the maze of my mind in an ecology of practice. The found and abstracted fragments, like a vessel that has been broken and glued back together, form a new creation that playfully combines disjointed parts into new relations. The clay pieces pressed by me and influenced by gravity form a constellation of amorphous fragments, adopting techniques of montage – a method that is not only cinematographic but also sculptural.

An ephemeral painted wall with dried, pigmented raw clay interacts with the architecture, lending works that are otherwise created under different spatial and temporal conditions a particular site-specificity and forming a counterpoint to the inertia of the ceramic objects by juxtaposing two stages of the same material. The viewer is not only caught in a spider's web, but immersed in the work.



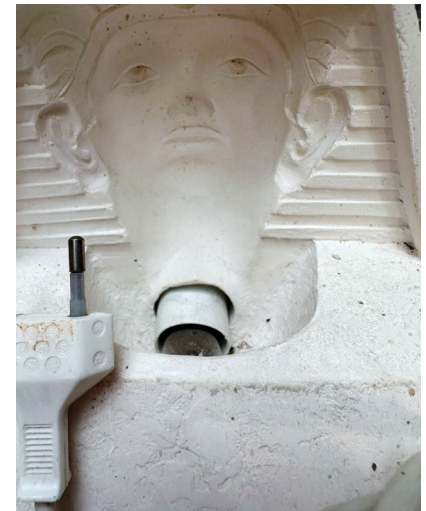
In a Cave of One's Own, 2023, in the site-specific installation *Innerfaces - Walking Through the Maze*. Ceramic sculpture, hand-built, process-based, stoneware, glazed, fired, found objects, unique piece. Exhibition view at Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain, 2024



Inverted Tree I, 2023, in the site-specific installation *Innerfaces - Walking Through the Maze*. Process-based, hand-built unique piece, ceramic, stoneware, glazed, fired. Studio view

Bottom right: I worked directly on the street and in parks with raw clay. Someone asked me why the heads appear in this work. In the photo, the lamp I found on the street, with a negative Pharaoh head, from which I took the positive. Later I went to the studio to assemble the different plates, textures and details

Top right: Working process as action on the street, taking impressions of tree bark, as seen turned inside-out in the lower elements of the work





Top left: *Bridge*, 2023. Process-based ceramic sculpture, stoneware, glazed, fired, hand-built unique piece. Approx. 40 cm × 45 cm × 15 cm. Imprint from the railing of a bridge; the imprint is then fired in the studio without further processing, then glazed and fired again



Innerfaces - Walking Through the Maze. Site-specific installation in two rooms in *Seeing Is Believing*, 2024 at Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain. Wall painting with raw clay slip and pigment, charcoal and pigment drawing from the series *Abandoned*, framed, ceramic objects hung on the wall, process-based, glazed, fired



Drought - Peperuda (Butterfly). Exhibition view, Hartdurm, Zürich, 2024



Drought - Peperuda (Butterfly). Details,
Hartdurm, Zürich, 2024

Top left: Stoneware and Ming porcelain, glazed,
fired. Top right: Stoneware and Ming porcelain,
unglazed, unfired

Drought - Peperuda (Butterfly), 2024

Site-specific installation developed for the exhibition space of Hartdurm, consisting of a wallpainting of raw clay slip and pigments mirroring the pattern of the ceiling in its original size, handmade, fired and unfired sculptural ceramic objects, oil and encaustic painting on canvas, found objects and painted plinths. Dimensions variable

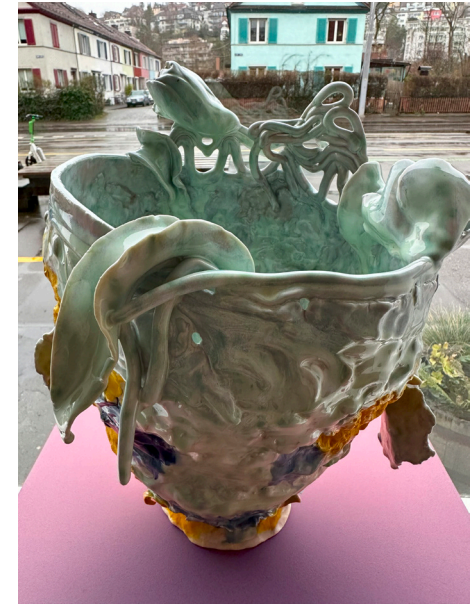
My site-specific installation *Drought – Peperuda (Butterfly)*, with ceramic objects and a wall-painting of raw clay slip that repeats the pattern of the ceiling of the Hartdurm space in original size, reflects on the times of crisis. It is built around Peperuda (butterfly), which is a spell, a paganistic rite performed by girls and women across different regions of Bulgaria and on the Balkan peninsula to call for rain when drought sets in. It is part of a range of procedures aimed at averting cataclysms and disasters. According to magic belief, drought can set in upon a taboo being broken. The rite is named after the ritual figure of the butterfly Peperuda, performed by a little girl. In South-Eastern Bulgaria, the girl wears on its head live frogs that symbolize moisture and the underworld, as rain and fertility depend on the world of the dead. Adorned with greenery, the girl is followed by a group of girls spraying water, singing particular songs and spells and dancing in ways that will call forth rain. In other regions of Bulgaria, the girls form from clay a male figure with an exaggerated erection, called Germann, garnished with flowers, as a votive offering.

Drought – Peperuda (Butterfly). Details, Hartdurm, Zürich, 2024

Top right: Hand-built vessel, Ming porcelain, multiply glazed, fired

Bottom left: Stoneware and carrots, glazed, engobed, fired

Bottom right: Stoneware and Ming porcelain, unglazed, fired, found objects





Site-specific installation *Play Chain Boys* in the exhibition *Soft Diagram Play and Work* at the INDUSTRA space in Brno, Czech Republic

Gymnastic rings, glazed stoneware, appropriated formal suit jackets dipped in raw clay slip and swung over the ceramic circles, hand-built ceramic boxes with hand-printed patterns, each approx. 34 × 25 × 14 cm, ceramic objects that combine elements of artichokes and toys. The installation is variable in size and site-specific and adapts to the space, with more or fewer rings and suit jackets

A formal and repetitive structure of appropriated gymnastic still rings, rather abstract and minimal, forms an apparatus that hints at a network across the exhibition space of INDUSTRA. It refers to the mechanical assembly line, and at the same gymnastics or a playground. Formal suit jackets dipped in raw clay slip serially hang from the rings like boneless gymnasts, left to dry directly on the circular structure. The installation includes a series of hand-built ceramic boxes, in the size and proportions of those used for shipping and home delivery by online services like Amazon or Zalando. The surface of the boxes is clad in easily recognizable commercial patterns appropriated from the fashion industry and Playboy magazine.

Play Chain Boys, 2023/2024



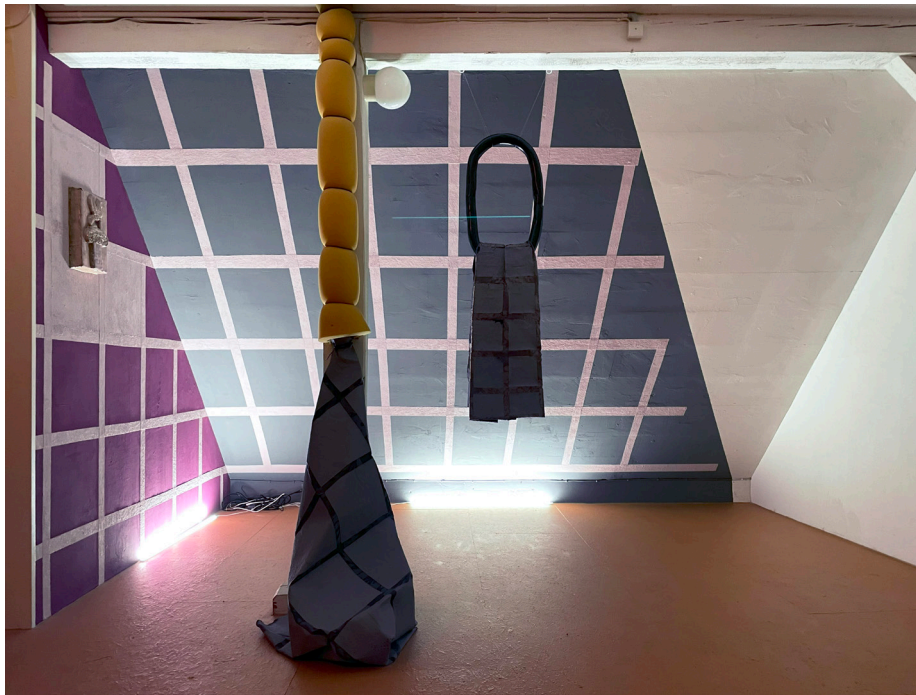
The installation *Play Chain Boys* evolves around the protagonist of techno-digital production in the immaterial economy. It refers to Paul B. Preciado's pharmacological modification of labor, the expansion of the network into every facet of work and life, and the anonymization and flexibilization of working processes. As for biopolitics, the body remains central to cognitive politics, but the new social producer loses it not only in the flexibilization and precarization of the working process, but also in the recently intensified domestication of labor under the pandemic regime, affected by the fashion industry and lifestyle influencers, social media and other platforms, and new forms of pharmacopornographic production and consumption.



Detail views of the installation *Play Chain Boys* in the exhibition *Soft Diagram Play and Work* at the INDUSTRA space in Brno, Czech Republic

Sphinx and Zero, 2024

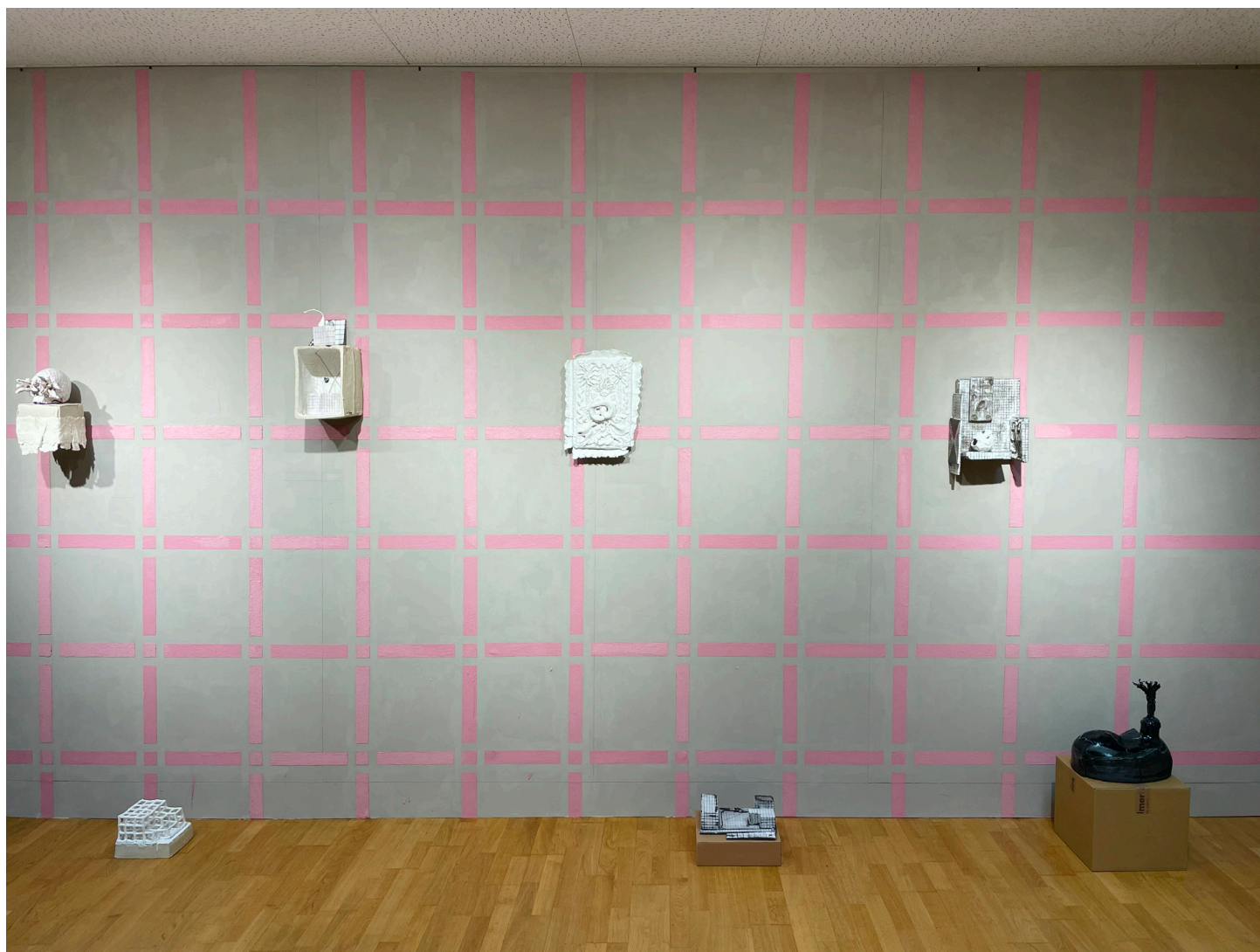
Site specific installation made at the space of Complex 156 for the exhibition *Eternal Elements*, consisting of wall paintings of raw clay slip and pigments, ceramic sculptural objects, glazed, fired, fabrics painted with raw clay slip and pigments



Sphinx and Zero, 2024. Exhibition view and details in the exhibition *Eternal Elements* at Complex 156, Zürich

She is mysterious. The Sphinx is inimical to human life, embodies wisdom and terror. The awful monster terrorized the people of Thebes by demanding an answer to a riddle taught to her by the Muses. The oracle of Delphi gave Oedipus a hint how to free them of the monster. Answering the riddle, he remained blind to the obvious truth. This is Oedipus' tragedy that plays out the irony of justice and truth. In this piece, the Sphinx refers to the Naxian Sphinx of Delphi, which is a winged female creature of Titanian descent. Following Nietzsche, I sum up: Truth is not good; Truth is not abstract; Truth is human; Truth = Woman; The philosopher desires the woman; The woman is the Sphinx. Stripping the frightening monstrosity off her, a short story, a Sphinx without secrets by Oscar Wilde. In *The Death of the Pythia* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the oracle becomes bored with prophesying and begins to predict at random. An old lady replaces the young, virgin Pythia. Indeed, the Greeks corrupted Delphi over the centuries, putting women of privilege in the position of the oracle instead of priestesses designated by the divinity, until the Roman emperor Theodosius I razed Delphi to the ground.

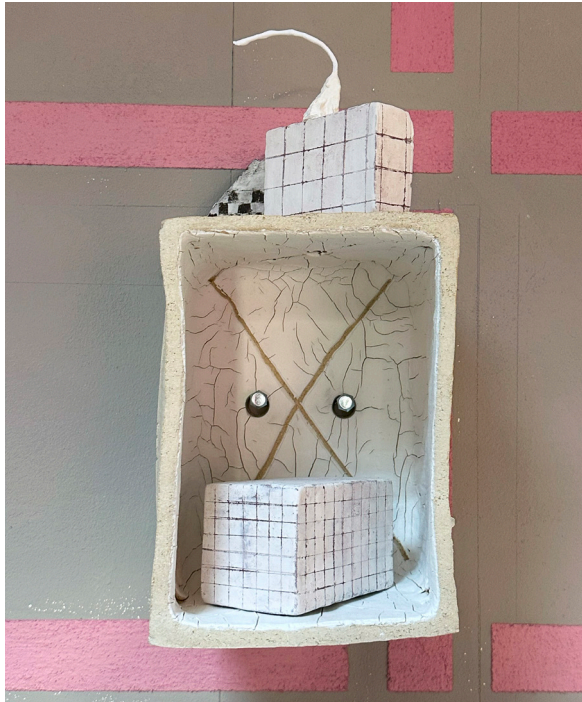
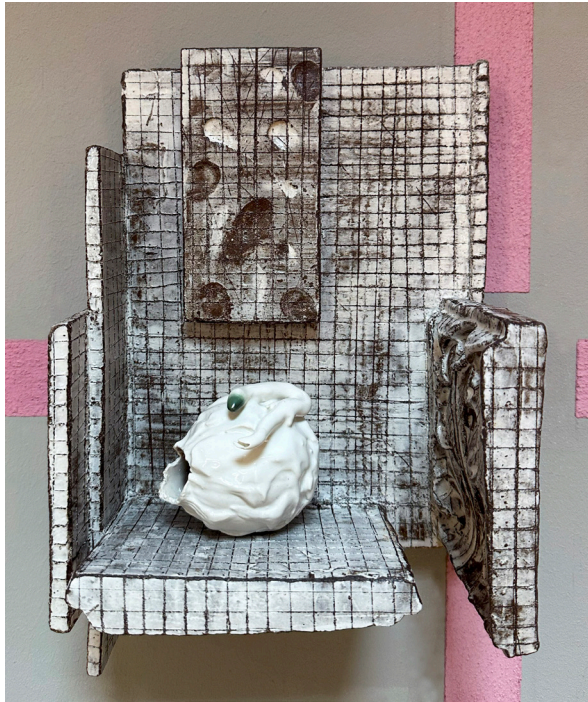
Usually, the depictions and sculptures of the Sphinx are associated with architectural structures. The slice of wall painting in the exhibition hints at the matrix of the space from which the objects reveal themselves, which also shows the artist's preoccupation with the structure or architecture of the exhibition space. Using the cardboard shipping box as a form, but made of ceramic, reflects on the appropriation of myth by the fashion industry. Mythical figures have become signs of high-end brands. If the myth of the Sphinx, Oedipus and the oracle is about truth and justice, today it is rather about true and false. The Sphinx is an open-source engine, and the oracle is an analytical database application, which shifts the forecast from the psycho to financial and trading analysis. In the binary code system, 1 refers to true, and 0 to false. The binary digits are the basis of all computing operations.



*Fossilized Remains
of a Possible Future,*
2023

Site-specific installation, sculptural ceramic objects, stoneware and porcelain, glazed, fired. Wallpaintings with raw clay slip and pigments. Shipping cartons are used in the installation as a negative form for both the sculptures and their bases, so that the base and the sculpture merge into one

Fossilized Remains of a Possible Future, 2023. Exhibition view in *Verwoben im Anthropozän (Interwoven in the Anthropocene)*, Kunstraum Uster, Uster, Switzerland



Fossilized Remains of a Possible Future, 2023. Detail views in *Verwoben im Anthropozän (Interwoven in the Anthropocene)*, Kunstraum Uster, Uster, Switzerland

The walls of the exhibition space of Kunstraum Uster unfold an expanded painting, which I made with dehydrated raw clay slip and pigments. Hanging my sculptural objects on the wall painting, in my installation *Fossilized Remains of a Possible Future* I wanted to build on the collapsing space between painting and sculpture, interweaving them with the architecture of the space and the curatorial direction of the exhibition *Verwoben im Anthropozän (Interwoven in the Anthropocene)*. The installation consists of a wall paintings of a monochrome grid encompassing an entire room of the space, the stripes of which are painted with pigmented clay slip. The ceramic objects are made of stoneware and porcelain, with details cast with porcelain slip, and Ming porcelain used as glazing and as a deliberate device to produce cracks and crackings on some surfaces of the clay body. The zero-shaped sculptural object is a mix between an object and an

expanded painting made with clay slip and pigment on textile. In the installation, I juxtapose the ephemeral expanded painting made of raw clay, to be trashed after the duration of the exhibition, with the objects, which are fragile as well like every ceramic and porcelain piece, but at the same time hard and durable – more durable than any kind of painting. The monochrome grid hints at the matrix and the negative space from which the objects appear as phenomenological events. At the same time, they stay there silently, independent from the viewer. Most of them are linked to a shipping box, those boxes that support the global circulation of goods. This makes us think also of logistic, storage, packaging, production lines, etc. My objects are hand-built with cast elements and unique. Their uniqueness stands in contrast to the mass production of commodities and reclaim the aura. They become some kind of sacred or an oracle, esoteric and paganist icons, or hint at Pandora's box.



Exotic X: Double charm with a color charge from the periphery, 2022. Exhibition view in *Akku Panorama*, Zeughaus Uster, Uster, Switzerland

Exotic X: Double charm with a color charge from the periphery, 2022

Pigmented porcelain objects, flock of 25 parrots, each approx. 40 cm × 5 cm × 7 cm, hand-built, Bodmer C40 slip cast in matrix made by the artist, deformed by hand, unglazed, fired at 1230 °C; the tree is a found object, dried, painted with raw stoneware slip of dehydrated clay, smashed, with painting pigments; the tree is held securely by a weighted pedestal, safe for the public, without having to be screwed to the ground; surface of the pedestal modeled from raw clay and treated with ceramic pigments added by the artist; the tree is a found object, dried, painted with raw stoneware slip from dried clay, smashed, with painting pigments, height 210 cm, diameter approx. 120 cm, real palm leaves (can be replaced with porcelain leaves), length approx. 40-60 cm each. At the bottom "dead", deformed parrots. Dimensions variable

The artist's text can be found on the website of the artist, dimitrina-sevova.art

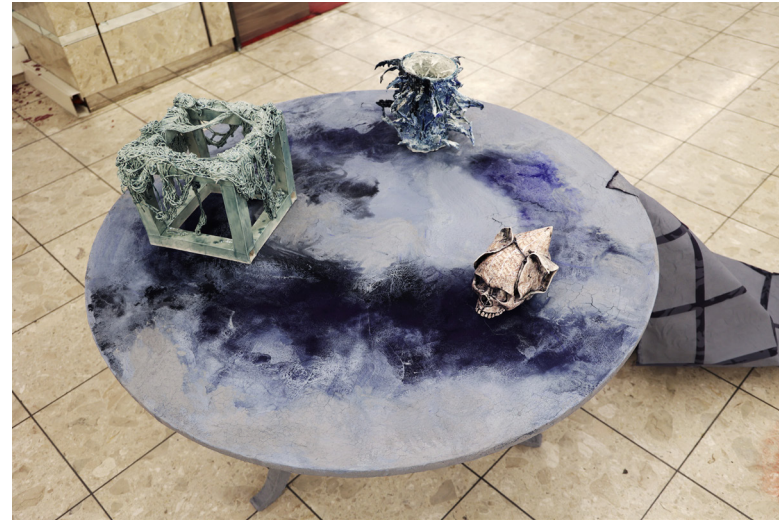


Twenty-second series –
Porcelain and Volcano. The
Cracks and the Game, 2022

The artist's text can be found
on the website of the artist,
dimitrina-sevova.art)

Twenty-second series – Porcelain and Volcano. The Cracks and the Game, 2022. Exhibition view at @Theoff.space in the exhibition Last Words from the Periphery III

Site-specific installation investigating
different stages of clay and cracking
surfaces. Various hand-built and
cast ceramic objects, raw clay to
fired and glazed porcelain by the
artist, intermingled with found
objects treated with clay slip and
pigments, wall painted in geometric
monochrome clay slip. Dimensions
variable



Twenty-second series – Porcelain and Volcano. The Cracks and the Game, 2022.
Exhibition view and details of hand-built ceramic and cast porcelain sculptural objects at @Theoff.space in the exhibition *Last Words from the Periphery III*

