Tolia Astakhishvili
air around things
29.08–24.10.2026

In *air around things*, Tolia Astakhishvili's first exhibition at LC Queisser in Cologne, the openness of the exhibition space comes into focus within its intricate and compartmentalised architecture. Where her installations often accumulate, alter, or occupy the architecture around them, here attention shifts to the volume between things to air as an omnipresent placeholder.

This relationship between what is present and what is left open continues in Tolia Astakhishvili's paintings. Marks and bodies emerge across thin canvas, partially worked from both front and reverse, creating a sense of depth from within the material itself. The fragile figures lean into one another, forming moments of closeness, inwardness and containment. Yet this intimacy is never entirely stable: faces lose their contours, hands and limbs become uncertain, and bodies drift apart, as though proximity itself were temporary.

This sense of fragmentation continues in the works on paper, which form a sequence following the staircase through all three floors of the exhibition space. Beginning with cut-outs of found images, they become seeds from which a memory, an observation or a thought might grow.

Alongside these works, different objects inhabit the space, among them a model of an unfinished concrete building skeleton, a recurring structure in Tolia Astakhishvili's work. Consisting only of the initial concrete framework of a building, such structures define architectural volumes without enclosing them: rooms are suggested, but remain open to the air. This tension between the frame, volume and open space runs throughout the exhibition, drawing attention to what is often left unnoticed, the space things hold within and around them.

Text by LC Queisser and Nutsa Sitchinava

Works

1. Tolia Astakhishvili
   Its open in the dark II, 2024-26
   cardboard, plexiglass box
   47 × 24.5 × 29.5 cm

2. Tolia Astakshishvili
   The portrait, 2020
   oil and acrylic on canvas
   100 × 70 cm

3. Tolia Astakhishvili
   life, 2022
   oil on canvas
   20 × 26.5 cm

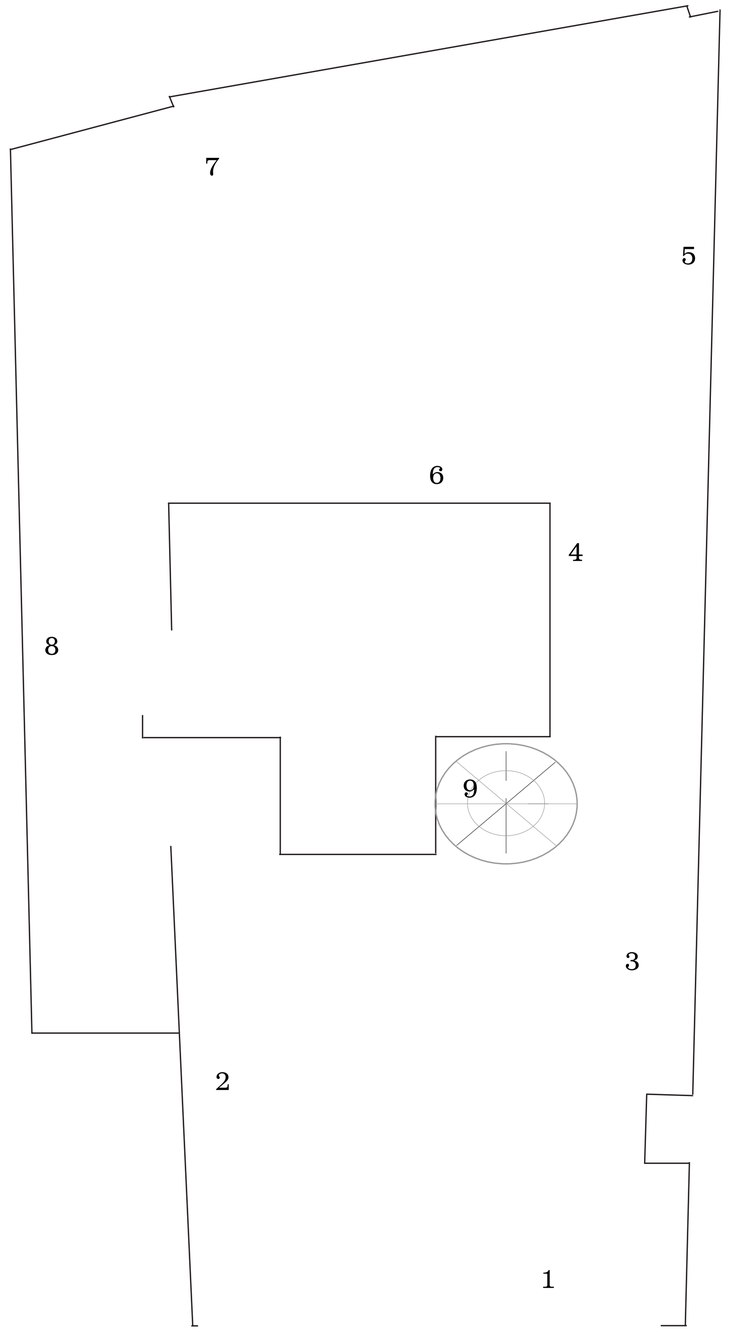
4. Tolia Astakhishvili
   Thank you for being so calm, 2018-24
   acrylic and oil on canvas
   100 × 70 × 2 cm

5. Tolia Astakhishvili
   air around things, 2022-26,
   canvas, oil acrylic, paper-mâché
   139.5 × 165 cm

6. Tolia Astakhishvili
   portrait of a listener, 2026,
   canvas, oil, acrylic,
   43.5 × 34.5 cm
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7. Tolia Astakhishvili
   Its open in the dark I, 2024-2026
   cardboard, plexiglass box
   53 × 30 × 21 cm

8. Tolia Astakhishvili
   castle, 2022,
   canvas, oil, acrylic
   18 × 13 cm



Works

9.1 Tolia Astakhishvili
connection (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.2 Tolia Astakhishvili
stoned (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.3 Tolia Astakhishvili
Home (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.4 Tolia Astakhishvili
something like “errinerung” (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.5 Tolia Astakhishvili
no choice (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.6 Tolia Astakhishvili
Transparency (seeds), 2022-2026
31 × 22.2 × 3 cm

9.7 Tolia Astakhishvili
fear of falling asleep (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

9.8 Tolia Astakhishvili
universal dream (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

Works

10.1 Tolia Astakhishvili
Ich hoffe, dass es kein Schimmel ist (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.2 Tolia Astakhishvili
could be an other planet or a piece of clay of another sculpture (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.3 Tolia Astakhishvili
hide and seek (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.4 Tolia Astakhishvili
desire (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

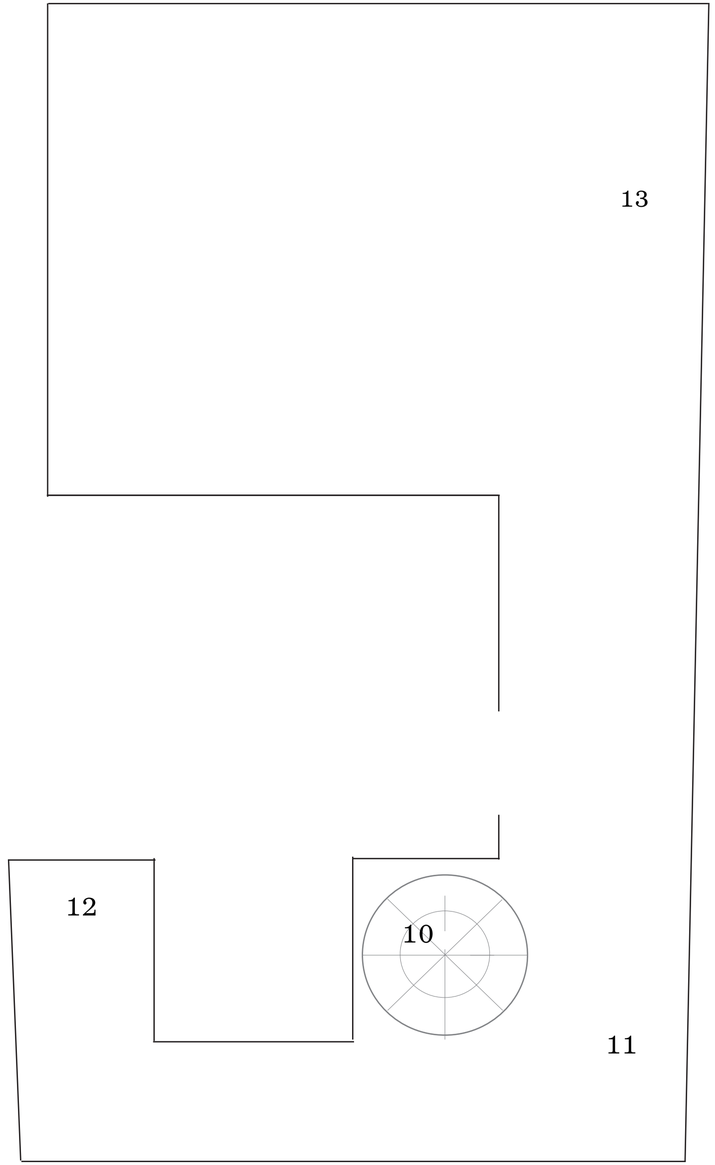
10.5 Tolia Astakhishvili
sunset (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.6 Tolia Astakhishvili
love (seeds), 2022-2026
31 × 22.2 × 3 cm

10.7 Tolia Astakhishvili
irgendwie scheis (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.8 Tolia Astakhishvili
2 planets(seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

10.9 Tolia Astakhishvili
wind (seeds), 2022-2026
pencil, paper, magazine cut-out, acrylic frame
31 × 22.2 × 2 cm

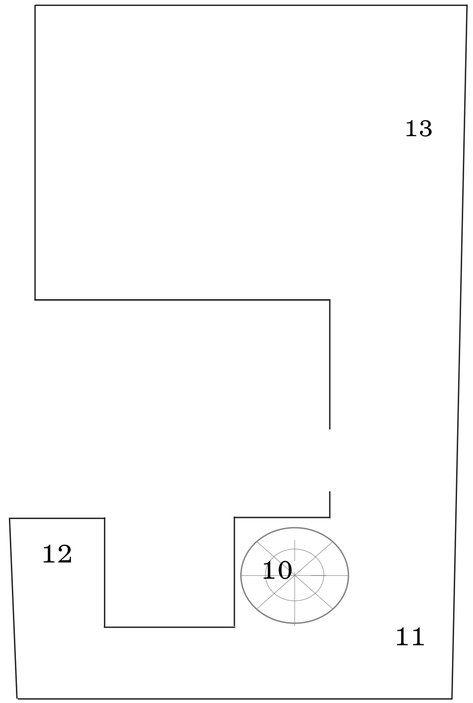


Works

11. Tolia Astakhishvili
flowers inside out, 2022-2025
canvas, oil, acrylic, thread
113 × 94 cm

12. Tolia Astakhishvili
leading threads, 2022
thread, archival tape, canvas
70 × 60 cm

13. Tolia Astakhishvili
Placebo, 2020-2026
canvas, oil, acrylic, pencil
100 × 70 cm



14. Tolia Astakhishvili
I am different every time, 2025
excavated armature, metal, chains, murano glass
310 × 10 × 13 cm

