

VEIT LAURENT KURZ

Metaphors and Mutations

June 27 through October 20, 2019

Opening: Wed June 26, 2019, 7 pm

8 pm Concert with Veit Laurent Kurz and Jared Madere

*Deep below a volcano is burning*

*We want to know about it*

*Also don't want to know about it*

Along with the desire to know, there is, if one follows Lacanian theory, also the passion of not-knowing and ignorance. Conceived as an absence that cannot be localized, the exhibition is enveloped in a question mark. The interior and exterior begin to blur; moments of mind and installation are sublated into one. As materializations and externalizations come to appear necessary on an individual level, there is also the inescapable questioning of their worldly meaning.

In his solo exhibition *Metaphors and Mutations* at Kunstverein Nürnberg, which the artist developed as a recipient of the Marianne Defet Malerei Stipendium, Veit Laurent Kurz takes a stronger conceptual turn and reflects on his relationships to the environment. Though he continues to develop his existing interests in technology—the magic of our times—and metabolic cycles, he also emphasizes the possibilities of entering and exiting his immersive scenes.

The entire exhibition proves to be an installation-system of thoughts and material generated by the artist's previous travels. This momentary result of virtual and physical reciprocities is manifested in the loosely connected components. The titular film combines material shot in Pompeii and Hawaii—Kurz' most recent travel destinations—with found footage of a volcanic eruption. As a machine for refinement, following the artist's dramaturgy, this ecological sphere out of kilter processes the fecal matter previously extracted from the Kunstverein's toilets in many different stages. Activated in this way, the resource responds to previous adaptations and, at the same time, styles itself as a vital future source.

The previously extracted veins are channeled through ruinous enrichment towers, which seem like the first stage of processing in an ongoing system of refinement. They are directed through a form of tent-space which envelops the otherwise transparent exhibition space and enshrines the paintings

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produced during his travels. This filter channels the energy extracted into the video room, where one finds a single, eccentric piece of seating. It is ultimately an abject volcano sculpture, which completes the alchemical transformation of the processed material into the herbal extract “Herba IV.” Figures rally around the mountain where the new substance is drawn off. These no longer or not yet human creatures consume the product whose effects are unnamed but seem to be salutary, hallucinogenic, or even performance enhancing.

The generic images, tools, and objects that Kurz draws on can also be found in contemporary consumer capitalism, where internet ‘readymades’ have long been pervasive, and whose horizon constantly oscillates between escapism, esotericism, and (neuro-)enhancement. Throughout the space, factual and invented narratives are woven together with these aspects to create externalized imaginations. As contemporary condensations into form and openings towards formlessness, which negotiate control and its loss as well as the eternal metabolisms of life and decay, Kurz’ practice implicates an enchantment by technology, the impressions of the open system of his whole environment, as well as obsessions rendered bright as day. He confronts these with a certain absence, in so far as the inner and the outer become one.

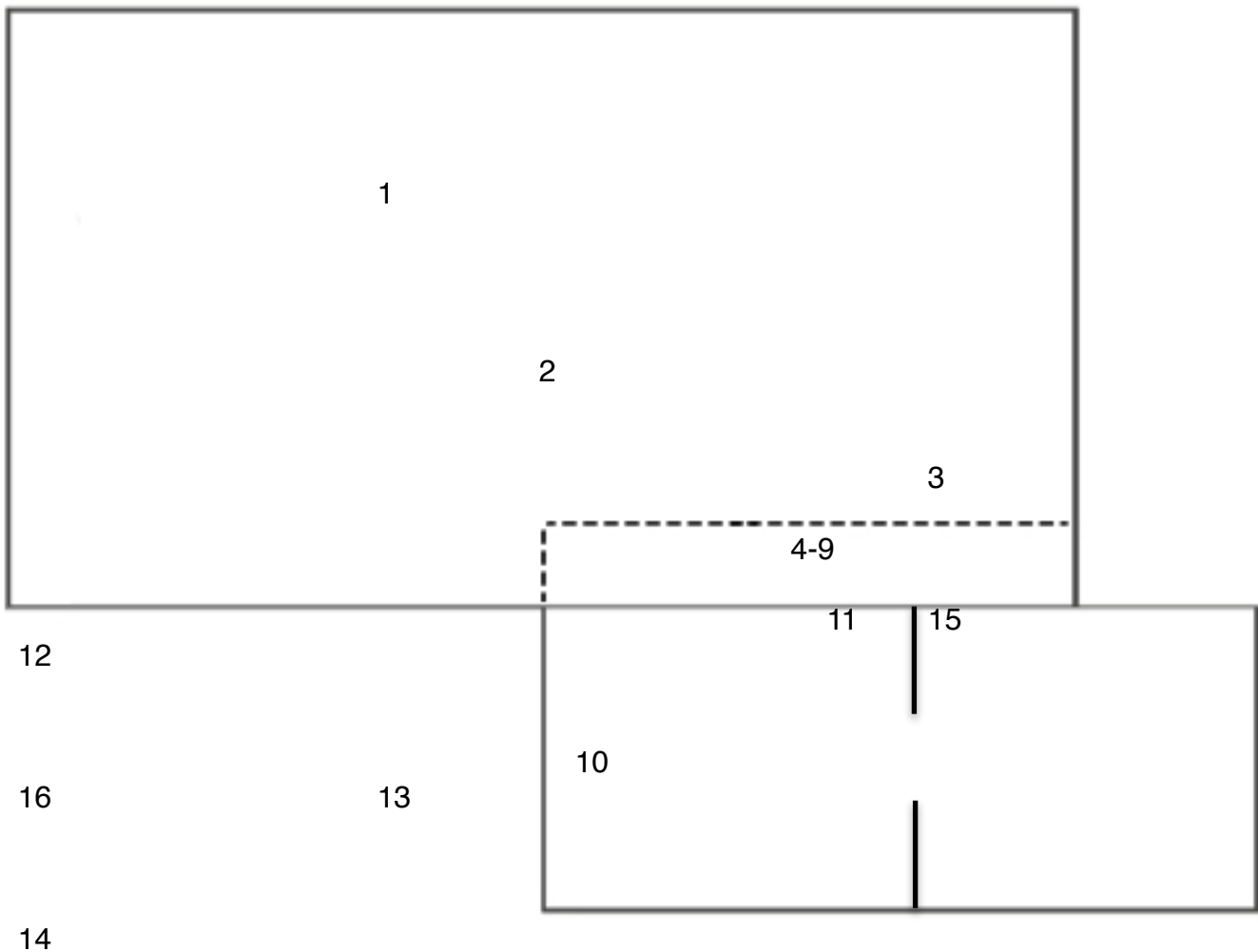
*Am I, the artist, ambassador of its kind?*

*And* *Or*

*Romantic mind and creator*

*Ambassador of my mind?*

Veit Laurent Kurz, \*1985 in Erbach, lebt und arbeitet in Berlin.



01 *O.T. (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2016, styropor, plaster, acrylic, model material, plastic tube, plastic plants, candle jelly, sea shells, 50 x 70 x 232 cm, Courtesy Weiss Falk

02 *O.T. (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2016, styropor, plaster, acrylic, model material, plastic tube, plastic plants, candle jelly, sea shells, 50 x 70 x 232 cm, Courtesy Isabella Bortolozzi

03 *Chef Sauce Béarnaise (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2018, plastic, femo, fabric, wire, acrylic, 128 x 40 cm, Courtesy Isabella Bortolozzi

04–09 *Life in Pompeii (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2019, acrylic, digital print, chalk, fabric, ink on paper on wood, dimensions variable (from right to left), No. 4, 5, 6 Courtesy Weiss Falk, No. 7, 8, 9 Courtesy Isabella Bortolozzi

10 *Metaphors and Mutations*, 2019, Video, ca. 15 min, Courtesy Weiss Falk und Isabella Bortolozzi

11 *Scepter (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2016, wood, femo, acrylic, model material, plastic plants, plastic, 110 cm, Courtesy Weiss Falk

12 *O.T. (HERBA-4 Panel)*, 2019, styropor, acrylic, digital print, plaster, acrylic, ink, paper, candle jelly, plastic plants, plastic tube, 100 x 200 cm, Courtesy Weiss Falk

13 *O.T. (HERBA-4 Panel)*, 2019, Styropor, acrylic, digital print, plaster, acrylic, ink, paper, candle jelly, plastic plants, plastic tube, 200 x 100 cm, Courtesy Weiss Falk

14 *O.T. (HERBA-4 Panel)*, 2019, Styropor, acrylic, digital print, plaster, acrylic, ink, paper, candle jelly, plastic plants, plastic, 400 x 100 cm (each 200 x 100 cm), Courtesy Weiss Falk

15 *Dilldapp Masks*, 2016, Paper, demo, acrylic, Courtesy the artist and Weiss Falk

16 *Eruption (HERBA-4 Series)*, 2019, Styropor, sand, plaster, acrylic, plastic plants, candle jelly, acrylic, femo, fabric, wood u.a., 210 x 380 cm, Courtesy Weiss Falk

## Upcoming events

Tues July 02, 6 pm  
Director's guided tour

Fri September 20, 5 pm  
Guided tour

Thurs September 26, 7 pm  
Artist talk with H el ene Fauquet and Anette Freudenberger  
(director Galerie der Stadt Schwaz, AT)

Sun October 20, 4 pm  
Book launch and concert with Veit Laurent Kurz

## Gef ordert durch:



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## Sachf orderung:



##  ffnungszeiten

Di–Fr 14–18 Uhr, Sa–So 13–18 Uhr

## Eintritt

2,50 Euro; erm aigt 1,50 Euro; freier Eintritt f ur Mitglieder des Kunstverein  
N urnberg und der ADKV