

## RL16

Sunah Choi

*Studiolo*

March 3 – May 1, 2022

2nd Floor

To study, reflect contemplatively and collect – to collect oneself, to recognize, to comprehend. With her comprehensive, site-specific exhibition *Studiolo*, the artist Sunah Choi invites visitors to do just that: in the 5 rooms of RL16's space on the 2nd floor of Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 16, which have the character of a spacious old building apartment. There she shows multi-part and medially diverse installations, which partly merge spatially and partly also in terms of content.

On about 150 square meters, the artist leads us along new works developed situationally and vocabulary and material already tested by her before and adapted to the specific context, through a playful reception ambience that is not obscured by language and that functions on diverse (reflection) levels: a studiolo of the present, one could say.

The studiolo type of space, a prefiguration of the museum, emerged – as a place of engagement with the arts, of cultural exchange, and thus also of representation – during the Renaissance. Located in the palaces of popes and nobles – and reserved for them – studioli were, in addition to a collection of real luxury objects, often lavishly decorated with elaborate illusionistic (wall) inlays that imitated, for example, shelves or cabinets filled with books, exotic study objects and measuring instruments.

In Sunah Choi's installations entitled *Studiolo I* (2022) and *Studiolo II* (2022), we also encounter (empty) shelves, stacks of books (made of wood) and yardsticks (made of paper), but also fruits and vases. On rolled-out white paper webs, set off from the brown parquet floor typical of the apartment, the artist composes from these and other objects (including colorfully painted glass panes) stage- or island-like scenarios that result in poetic still lifes that affect the senses or are reminiscent of models for future architectures and thus also call up socially related aspects. Whereby they are, in different ways, interwoven with each other, with the other exhibits, and with the exhibition site itself.

For instance, in the context of the exhibition, the shelves (*Regale*, 2021) and the workwear jackets made of paper (*Blaumann Papiergitterjacken*, 2021) that Sunah Choi showed at the Kunstverein Reutlingen last year as a reference to its history as a former fabrication hall for metal screens meet a glass pane painted in rose colour (*Rosa L.*, 2022) in one of the apartment's bay windows, meant as a discreet homage to Rosa Luxemburg, the socialist representative of the workers' movement.

Text: Barbara Buchmaier

Last solo exhibitions by the artist (selection): *Knotenfänger*, Kunstverein Reutlingen, 2021, *Banco*, Kunsthall 3.14, Bergen (NO), 2020, *Karo*, Edition Block, Berlin, 2020, *Skala*, Museum Nikolaikirche, Hannah-Höch-Förderpreis, Berlin, 2018