

ROSEMARY MAYER

Ways of Attaching

June 11 until September 18, 2022

“Ways of Attaching” is the first survey exhibition of the work of U.S. artist Rosemary Mayer (1943-2014), who was active in the New York art scene beginning in the 1960s. There she was a founding member of the now legendary A.I.R. Gallery, the first cooperative gallery for women in the United States. After beginnings in conceptual painting and drawing, Mayer embarked on a series of textile sculptures in the early 1970s, inspired in part by her fascination with Italian Mannerist painting. In 1982, she published her translation of the diary of Mannerist artist Jacopo da Pontormo, along with a catalog of her works. The textile sculptures, as well as later sculptures in wood, attest to Mayer's interest in creating works undermined by their very construction (through inherent instability, extreme tension of synthetic fabrics, and the like). In her titles, she referenced historical female figures such as Hypsipyle from Greek mythology or Galla Placidia, regent of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century. The exhibition focuses on Mayer's sculptural methods such as draping, knotting, stretching, and attaching, and embeds them in the artist's drawing and conceptual work through the 1980s.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Marie and Max Warsh of the Estate of Rosemary Mayer and in partnership with Swiss Institute, New York; Ludwig Forum, Aachen and Spike Island, Bristol.

Curated by Stephanie Weber