

Kristi Cavataro

Zweigstelle Capitain V - C.A. S.A. Palazzo Degas, Napoli

March 23 – May 4, 2024

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce its first solo exhibition with US artist Kristi Cavataro at Zweigstelle Capitain V, Palazzo Degas, Napoli.

In a fusion of craftsmanship and conceptual depth, Cavataro presents a group of sculptures that echo the legacy of Minimalism by denying any means of representation other than their own invented form. In a meticulous process of hand-plotting tiles of rolled sheet glass, wrapped in copper foil and soldered with tin and lead, Cavataro brings her idiosyncratic voluminous sculptures - piece by piece - into being. Her stained glass works exude an aura of synthetic alienation and artistic necessity, eschewing ornamental excess and expression in favour of hermetic precision.

Each sculpture is a singular, articulated shape, despite employing modular components.

A monochrome work in matte green glass with three branching tubes might suggest a defensive structure. Another work in mottled violet glass, installed on the wall, eventually resembles a kind of microbiological particle. The largest sculpture, in hues of blue and pink, evokes the vision of several intertwined Möbius-strips.

But while it is tempting to draw on comparable objects and shapes to describe the peculiarities of Cavataro's works, these descriptions only limit their complexity and conception. Her sculptures are defined by the compression and expansion of matter, as if a gravitational force were embedded in the works and emanating from their centre. Each piece poses a unique approach to form, space and colour and its interaction with light. Cavataro uses a wide range of coloured glasses of varying opacity, which block or allow the gaze to penetrate the interior of the sculptures.

The works' aesthetic is based on the use of simple primary forms, following a logical and precise execution. This body of work is constructed entirely from 16-sided polygons, which function as quasi modular components. Each basic shape of the polygon is combined in ever new ways, allowing Cavataro to create these rigid yet fluid bodies, with each sculpture claiming a particular design and presence. She draws a fine line between a 'high and low' resolution of possible forms, pushing her sculptures towards clarity and ascetic illusionism.

In this sense she draws on and challenges the trajectory and language of Minimal Art and Concept Art. Sculptors such as Charlotte Posenenske and her peers come to mind, whose practice was defined by simplicity and conceptual rigour, as they employed the modular system as a means of making art. Radicalism was an expression of consistency and methodology. The acknowledged artistic limitation coincided with the industrial production of many of their works, ultimately resulting in a devotion to methods of seriality and uniformity. Thus, the sublime object, seemingly untouched by human hand, naturally glorifies a sacrosanct appearance detesting the artist's personal gesture. Cavataro's work does not commit to such artistic absence and opposes any means of intangibility by bringing a new kind of abstract vocabulary back to the studio.

# GALERIE GISELA CAPITAIN

Kristi Cavataro, born in 1992 in Connecticut, lives and works in New York. She has received her BFA from the Cooper Union in 2015. Her work was part of the group exhibition *Greater New York* at MoMA PSI, New York in 2021.

## Program Zweigstelle Capitain V

### Saturday, 23 March, 5-9 pm

Opening Event

Seth Price - Record Launch 6 pm

Alvin Curran - Concert 7.30 pm

### Saturday, 20 April, 7.30 pm

Ralf Niemczyk - DJ-Set

### Saturday, 27 April, 7.30 pm

Roope Eronen - Concert

### Zweigstelle Capitain V

at C.A.S.A

Palazzo Degas

Calata Trinità Maggiore, 53

80134 Napoli, Italia

### Opening hours

Wednesday - Saturday

11 am - 1 pm and 3 - 7 pm

and by appointment

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