

Les objets parlent quand on ne regarde pas

30.05 – 05.07.25

solo exhibition by Sophie Conus

EN The exhibition *Les objets parlent quand on ne regarde pas* by Geneva-based artist Sophie Conus takes shape after a residency at Terrain Gurzelen. The artist explores personal interests developed and inspired by the site.

Objects bear memories, are traces of a life, and elements of collective stories. They are created, accumulate, get lost, exchanged, and forgotten. Following her fascination with small objects and her attraction to collections—of trinkets, found objects, dried herbs, even waste—Sophie places these artifacts at the center of the exhibition as pieces of stories. The intention is not to tell a specific narrative but rather to highlight the narrative potential that objects exude and acquire—particularly through the subversion of the primary functions of abandoned, expired objects that no longer serve in the same way.

"Fascinated by how things are made," she experiments with craft techniques including clay modeling and metal casting. In collaboration with Hugo Langlade, they developed a research project around building a foundry, autonomously and primarily using reclaimed materials. Here, some of the objects were created during the residency and are presented in the exhibition.

Immersed in the microcosm of Terrain Gurzelen, Sophie questioned the essence of the place. How does such a space, living at an alternative rhythm, thrive on the margins of urban society? What are its causes and motivations? Urbanization is a current issue in the neighborhood, which is being torn between the limited lifespan of Terrain Gurzelen and the construction of a residential complex named "La Fleur"—ironically, the complex is, among other things, built in concrete. This construction site, located just across from the entrance of Terrain Gurzelen, seemingly represents the future of the place, which has so far managed to resist among the concrete and has symbolically developed like a weed in the cracks of society.

Deepening this metaphor as a reference in the exhibition, and inspired by works like Arnaud Pradervand's book "Mauvaises herbes," which collects and values these plants, Sophie imagines Terrain Gurzelen as a weed of society and prompts reflection on the reappropriation of urban spaces. The exhibition materializes a version of gentle resistance led by alternative projects, highlighting the artist's sensitive processes through the creation of pieces—between a curiosity cabinet and a diorama—that are awakened and accessible.

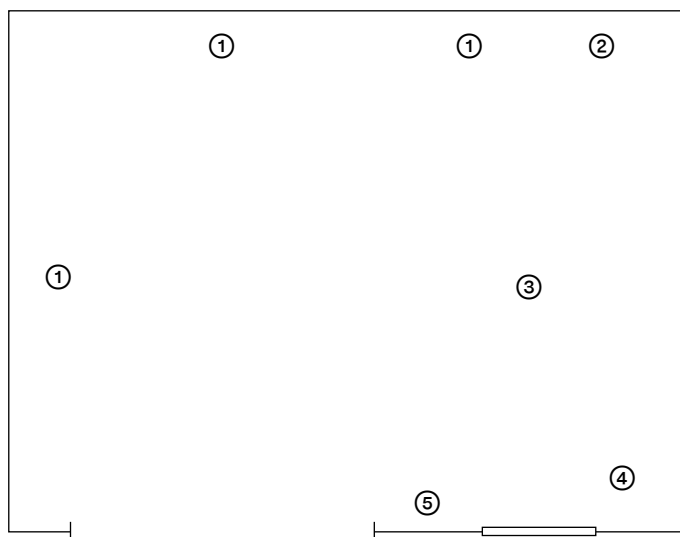
Thanks to Victor Sala, Marlène Charpentier, Hugo Langlade, Karin Michaelis and Philippe Conus.

Supported by Pro Helvetia, City of Biel, Canton of Bern, Foundation Tempratio, Burgergemeinde Bern, Foundation GVB, FMAC – Ville de Genève & Foundation CÉrtli. Thank you!

Les objets parlent quand on ne regarde pas

30.05 – 05.07.25

solo exhibition by Sophie Conus



- ① *Vide-poches*, 2025
various materials
- ② *Cui-cui*, 2025
wood, bird nest, dead flies
- ③ *Sans titre*, 2025
metal, jewellery display
- ④ *Barbelés*, 2025
aluminium
- ⑤ *Pick me*, 2025
steal