

## Visitor information

### Raumfahrt VI

**Badel/Sarbach, Val Minnig,  
Joaquim Cantor Miranda**

12. Juni bis 25. September 2022

At first sight, museums and insects appear not to have a great deal to do with one another. Whether in “White Cubes” or in grand houses, creepy-crawlies are pretty unwelcome guests, tolerated only if they remain invisible. In the cellar of the Langmatt, where the exhibition series *Raumfahrt* is taking place, there are also plenty of spiders and woodlice. Insects and other creepy-crawlies have long been considered pests, to be removed as efficiently as possible. Attitudes to the smallest of life forms appear to be slowly shifting. The sixth exhibition in the *Raumfahrt* series addresses this theme from an artistic perspective. Badel/Sarbach (\* 1983/1991), Val Minnig (\* 1991) and Joaquim Cantor Miranda (\* 1997) exhibit current artworks that address questions surrounding the hierarchies and symbioses of the human being and creepy-crawlies with lightness, humour, and poetry.

In the large cellar, Val Minnig exhibits three enormous nets with colourful geometric patterns sprayed onto them, stretched out to criss-cross the space. The patterns on Val Minnig’s nets are those of double-sided adhesive flypaper film, still used today in cow barns. The three-dimensional forms suggest recesses to the creatures, and they fly into them in search of refuge, instead becoming stuck to the film and meeting a terrible end. This artwork creates a curious closeness between ourselves as human beings and the insects and irresistibly, we find ourselves asking: might flies and gnats have an aesthetic sense of their own?

Badel/Sarbach have created a multi-layered, multimedia artwork, one which uses a tiny life form to ask questions about the mechanisms of international trade, colonialism, ethical treatment of animals, and exploitation of natural resources, how we treat nature, and also about art and the history of art. This artwork consists of a forest of half-height, snow-white cactus sculptures with a reflective

surface, which boast red lollipops instead of spines, and a screen showing an animated, bigger-than-life-size cochineal beetle (3D animation: Rob&Law, Rosemarie E. Benson, and Laura M. Weber), which tries to engage the visitors in conversation, speaking in an amused and slightly smug tone. With a wink, the beetles in this artwork by Badel/Sarbach have found their way back to their preferred habitat: in the form of plastic-wrapped lollipops, carmine-red in colour on opuntia cacti, where they have been cultivated for centuries in South America.

So where are the tiny animals in Joaquim Cantor Mirandas installation? The poem that appears on the small sign provides a solution: “Dust mites in carpets, pasture, green meadows / Tropospheric troubles / A wider audience / A sense of perspective”. They are not only found in the meadows and pastures – we are to believe that household dust mites are also teeming throughout the round, red wool carpet, and this is quite plausible given how commonly these tiny spider-like creatures are found on household textiles. As they are under a millimetre in size and therefore invisible to the naked eye, they lead a concealed life in close proximity to human beings – they prefer to live in our beds.

A publication with a text by Daniela Minneboo and exhibition views accompanies the exhibition. *Raumfahrt VI - Badel/Sarbach, Val Minnig, Joaquim Cantor Miranda*, Museum Langmatt, Baden, 2022, 28 pages, CHF 14.80 (available at the museum box office).

# LANGMATT

Museum Langmatt  
Stiftung Langmatt Sidney und Jenny Brown  
Römerstrasse 30  
CH-5401 Baden

info@langmatt.ch  
+41 (0)56 200 86 70  
www.langmatt.ch