

KUNST MERAN
im Haus der Sparkasse
MERANO ARTE
edificio Cassa di Risparmio

10th February – 8th April 2018
Opening : 9th February 2018

Into the Wild

Gina Folly, Linda Jasmin Mayer, Alek O., Stefano Pedrini, Luca Trevisani

With the exhibition *Into the Wild*, Kunst Meran continues its examination of nature and landscape in artistic positions that it began in 2017 with solo shows by Helen Mirra (USA) and Gianni Pettena (I).

This group exhibition concerns itself with the ideas and concepts of nature that shape us today: with industrialisation and its accompanying urbanisation and rationalisation of work, the human being has become increasingly cut off from nature. So it is not surprising that great interest in cultivated parks, greenhouses and zoos developed particularly in the 19th Century.

Various facilities bear witness to these endeavours especially in Merano, its rise as a health resort tellingly also beginning in the 19th Century. Like the famous botanical promenade, that was named after the spa doctor Franz Tappeiner (*1816 - 1902) who initiated and realised the project. Tappeiner also devoted himself to botany and during his lifetime put together a herbarium of over 6000 plant species, including from his immediate surroundings.

In the post-digital present nature is more familiar to us in screensavers than in the real environment. Nature is reborn as a place of longing. Retreating into nature becomes an alternative to our complex, technology-driven present. Alongside excerpts from Franz Tappeiner's herbarium, which today is to be found in the Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck, the exhibition gathers four contemporary positions together that engage in different ways with the perception and conception of nature and the dichotomy of artificiality and nature today.

Gina Folly (*1983 in Zurich) addresses almost absurd relationships produced by contemporary efforts to live a life in a harmony of body, spirit and environmental awareness. Nature thus appears to us as a lifestyle-product. Artificiality and art are among the observations to be made in the age of power yoga and bioactive nutrients.

In her works **Alek O.** (*1981 in Buenos Aires), begins with already existing objects and materials that she transforms into artworks. For example in the location-specific installation 'L'impero delle luci' (2017), in which she works with collected and dried leaves.

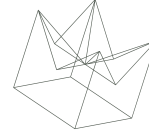
For his ephemeral sculptures and installations **Luca Trevisani** (*1979 in Verona) takes forms and material from the world of plants and animals – and reflects poetically/formally on their origin and their contemporary meaning. In his film 'Sudan' he portrays the last remaining male

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white rhino that lives in a rhino sanctuary in Kenya watched over by paramilitary units, but which is too old to reproduce. White rhinos are above all hunted for their horn, which is said to be an aphrodisiac.

Stefano Pedrini's (*1980 in Sondrio) paintings are dense accumulations of signs – graphical representations of elements symbolising nature. He for example fills the canvas almost mechanically with palms or leaves that are defined only by a few brush strokes, and thus creates a dense ornamental structure.

The Merano-based artist **Linda Jasmin Mayer** (*1986) vividly shows in her video installation 'Parallel World' how an expedition in the wilderness, in this case the Antarctic, also means an expedition into the self and how nature and landscape mirror one's own mental state.

Into the Wild borrows its title from the 2007 American feature film of the same name by Sean Penn, which tells the (true) story of a student from a well-off family, who journeyed alone in the Alaskan wilderness in order to face the challenges of leading a simple life far from civilisation.

Into the Wild

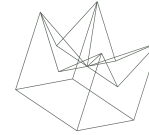
Curator:	Christiane Rekade
Opening:	Friday, 9th February 2018, 7 pm
Exhibition dates:	10th February – 8th April 2018
Location:	Kunst Meran im Haus der Sparkasse Lauben 163, 39012 Merano
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In collaboration with artVerona/ Level Zero 2017
The exhibition participation of Gina Folly is supported by Pro Helvetia.

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