

Press Release

Ruedi Bechtler. Zeitreise auf dem Kopf **Franziska Baumgartner. Bis sich Blasen bilden** 12 February 2022 – 1 May 2022

Press Conference: Friday, 11 February 2022, 11 am

Opening Day: Saturday, 12 February 2022, 10 am – 6 pm

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Ruedi Bechtler

Since the 1960s Ruedi Bechtler (*1942) has been accumulating a body of work that is uncompromising in its own way. It includes, among other works, ink drawings, photographs, wooden objects, participatory installations, fountain sculptures, light objects, and assemblages of found objects. Embracing unusual approaches, he retrieves art from the ivory tower and brings it before the people to allow his audience to participate in the process of creation.

The exhibition showcases Ruedi Bechtler as an artist familiar with experimental approaches to art and engaged with current topics, such as the ecological crisis, but also with the social function of art. As an artist and sponsor he has been active in institutions including Kunsthhaus Zürich and F+F Schule für Kunst und Design.

The past few years have witnessed the organization of his archive, which now allows for the first comprehensive overview of his work in the exhibition and accompanying book publication.

Guest curator: Michael Hiltbrunner

Franziska Baumgartner

Franziska Baumgartner's (*1987) artistic practice has its origin in the experimental use of volatile and changeable materials of a technical and everyday nature. She is interested in physical qualities like magnetism, conductivity, and binding capacity, as well as the transformation of alimentary products through cultural practices like fermentation, molecular cooking, and the production of bioplastic. In the resulting installations and sound and video works, she combines analogue and digital image media for the production of image and sound – at times based on random processes, at others tightly controlled. Kunsthhaus Langenthal presents her first institutional solo exhibition, for which Baumgartner developed new site-specific works.



Ruedi Bechtler, Optische Gitter, from the Series Licht-Sandwich, digital photo overlay, 2010–12.



Franziska Baumgartner, Tidal, 2020, Installation view Kunsthalle Basel, 2021, Photo: Moritz Schermbach.