

Nikolett BALÁZS

P o r t f o l i o



BIO

Nikolett Balázs (b. 1990) is a Budapest based artist who graduated from the Painting Department from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2015. She was nominated for *Leopold Bloom Art Award* and *Esterházy Art Award* in 2021. Balázs is a member of *MŰTŐ* artist run collective since 2016 and internationally active artist. She is the winner of the *Secondary Archive* competition from the Hungarian young art scene section. Her works can be found also in public (*MODEM* Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre) and private collections (*Irokéz Collection, Dávid Kováts*). She was recently selected to take part in Manifesta 14 Prishtina and VISEGRAD FUND Residency Programme in New York. Nikolett is the first hungarian artist to exhibit at Saco Biennial Chile, 2023.

NIKOLETT BALÁZS-CV

1990, DEBRECEN | HUNGARY

CONTACT

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www.nikolettbalazs.com

MEMBERSHIP

2016- MŰTŐ artist-run space

PRIZES

2020 Secondary Archive Young Woman Artist - Hungarian winner

2019 Young Talents of Hungary Scholarship NTP-NFTÖ-19

2016 Barcsay Prize

WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

Irokéz Collection, Dávid Kovács, MODEM Modern and Contemporary Arts Centre Collection

RESIDENCIES

2023 Visegrad Artist Residency Program in New York

2021 AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE - Niederösterreich

2019 Villa R Residency Sicily, Messina

BIENNIALS

SACO Biennial 2023 Chile, Antofagasta

Manifesta 14 - Secondary Archive sound installation - Prishtina

STUDIES

2018-2019 Budapest Art Mentor Program

2015-2016 Hungarian University of Fine Arts - Teacher

2009-2015 Hungarian University of Fine Arts - Painter

SOLO SHOWS

2023 BODYLAND - SACO Biennial - Chile

2022 THIRSTY WELL - ARTKARTELL Project Space - Budapest

2021 MADE OF DUST - Nagyházi Contemporary - Budapest

2020 Recycling into Sacral - Hybridart Space - Budapest

2019 Sensation Session - Négyszoba Gallery - Budapest

2019 Clean Yard - Deák Palace - Budapest

2017 Inside-Out - MŰTŐ - Budapest

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2023 Das Erbe der Avantgarde in Ungarn-KUNSTWERKBERLIN-Berlin

2022 This Untamed Field I Know Well - Budapest Gallery

2022 Manifesta 14 - Secondary Archive sound installation - Prishtina

2021 Esterházy Art Award - Ludwig Museum - Budapest

2021 Leopold Bloom Art Award - Q Contemporary - Budapest

2021 FLOWERS and MONSTERS - Vunu Gallery - Slovakia

2021 ALL THAT IS MINE - Arcadia Missa Gallery - London

2020 Art Market Budapest - acb Gallery online - Budapest

2019 LOOP - MŰTŐ - Budapest

2019 MATTER - MODEM Contemporary Arts Centre- Debrecen

2019 The Tidal Flood Beneath the Lunar Sway - Cluj-Napoca

2019 Transition - Suomi Art Fair - Helsinki

2019 Acidic Taste - Durden and Ray Gallery - Los Angeles

2019 Dreams Upon Waking - MŰTŐ - Budapest

2019 Game of Snakes - Telep Gallery - Budapest

2018 Break-out 2.0 - MŰTŐ - Budapest

2018 Break-out Independent Art Fair - Stockholm

2016 Interferencia - MŰTŐ - Budapest



THIRSTY WELL

SOLO SHOW

ARTKARTELL Project Space | Budapest

2022

curator: Gábor RIEDER

THIRSTY WELL

The solo exhibition of Nikolett Balázs, an artist of the youngest generation of the Hungarian art scene, articulates our power structures in her textile works. The current selection of the artist's latest works, entitled Thirsty Well, is a series of dramatic objects and installations that deal with the political and economic attitudes of recent times. How can these power strategies be captured in a multilayered, symbolic story through a sensual and personal language?

Nikolett Balázs works mainly with the iconic material of 20th century women artists, the raw jute canvas used by Ilona Keserü or Marina Abakanowicz, similarly stiffening the crumpled, shaped textile. Nikolett Balázs inhabits the space with her strange sculptures, completing the existing world with this missing formal order of hers. The rippling folds, which open and close like flowers, intertwine many layers of meaning beyond the feminist vulva symbolism, from folkloric tulip motifs to the symbolism of totemic individuality on flayed skin.

The exhibition in Artkartell's projectspace gathers objects around a well, constructed from painted or untreated raw canvas, scrap metal, tile adhesive, pur foam and XPS insulation boards. The works, hung on the wall with a crisp, dry effect, take on anthropomorphised forms, surrounding the fountain where the life-giving water dries up under oil stains, in a stale vat. The „thirsty well” is an oxymoron, a tank full of tense contradictions where water is out of place. An emblematic nylon foil used in the agriculture of today's farm world leads to the lord of the well, the supreme textile sculpture that - as a deity, the crowned head of the throne room - holds sway over the precious fluid. Around it, a hierarchy of subordinate artworks are lined up, with painted elements, shiny shavings, sponges and pipes. In the side storage room next to the main exhibition space - arranged around a sacred water source -, sterile water pouches, extracted from the well, hang from the ceiling just like in a larder. With Thirsty Well, Nikolett Balázs has created a world with strange atmosphere and enigmatic symbolism, in which subconscious emotions and the idea of the Garden play as important a role as the feminist approach, the recycling of objects evoking the rural milieu or the representation of fresh water, namely the power manoeuvres trying to dominate other countries and groups of people.

On view: Budapest, Artkartell projectspace, 17 May – 17 June 2022

Curator: Gábor Rieder | Sponsor: PP Center | Photo credit: Dávid Biro

MAIN ROOM of ARTKARTELL Project Space































STORAGE ROOM of ARTKARTELL Project Space

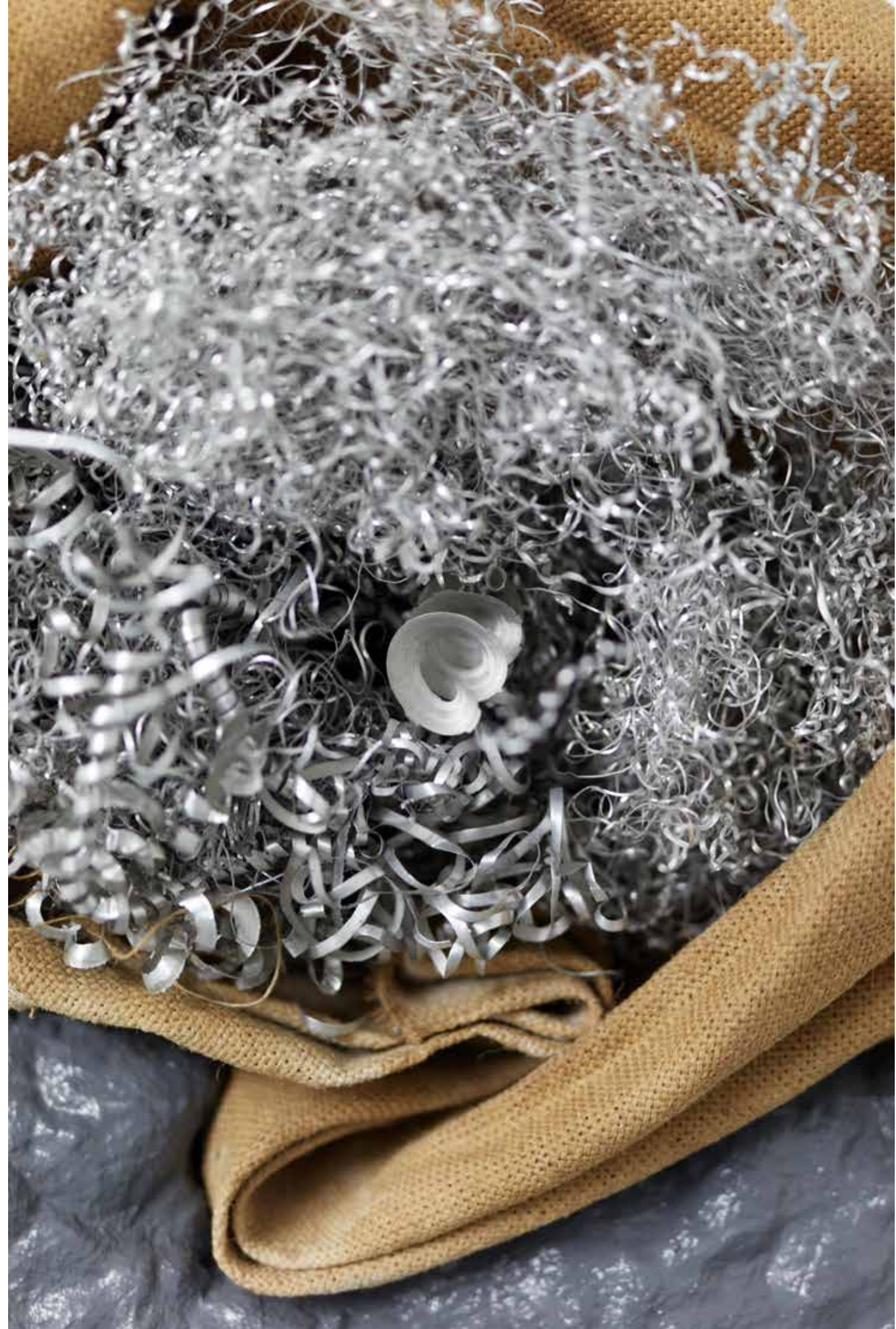












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[https://www.instagram.com/niki_balazs /](https://www.instagram.com/niki_balazs/)