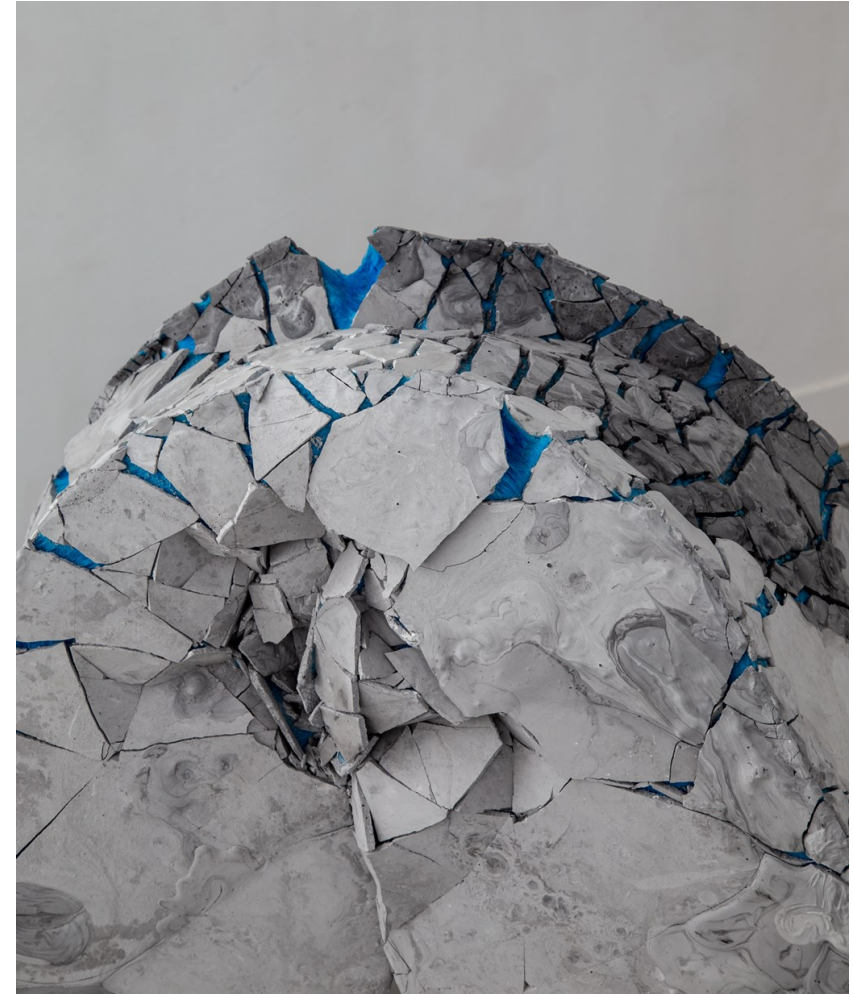


## MATEA BAKULA

Matea Bakula (Sarajevo, 1990) is an emerging artist who is often fascinated by the nature and the potential of different materials.

In her creating process Bakula is looking beyond the aesthetics of the material she is using. She almost works like a chemist or a physicist that is trying to find the answers of the material's secrets. She does not only want to know the qualities or limitations of the materials that she is using; she also wants to find out the reasons behind them, like why certain material easily stretches or why another material spreads out in an oval or roundish way and is showing her version of the answers through her sculptures.

Through her body of work, Matea Bakula teaches us that matter is never fixed, its identity is fluid and influenced by the artist's ability and curiosity to explore its infinite potential.



Matea Bakula  
Wrestles with my spirit animals #1, 2018







## A WHEEL A STONE A ROPE A WING, 2023

With Ruta Butkute at PARK

How do you show movement in a static object? And how would you place this object in a large exhibition space? How would you want the audience to perceive this, and how do you combine all of this into a playing field for a professional dancer?

These are the questions **Matea Bakula** and **Ruta Butkute** have been working on recently at PARK.

The answers to these questions were the inspiration of this exhibition focusing on movement, dynamics and interaction between people, objects and space.









Matea Bakula,  
To Gather V, 2023



Matea Bakula,  
To Gather VII, 2023







Matea Bakula,  
Stones of the sky #1, 2023



Matea Bakula,  
Stones of the sky #1, 2023

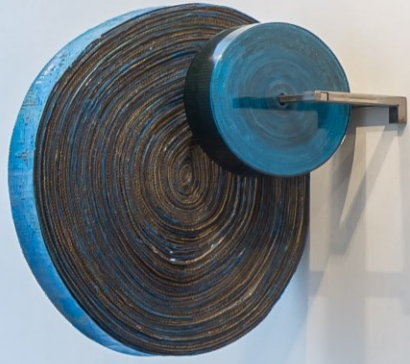
**One eye and two takes on vulnerability, 2020**  
With Milena Naef at Lumen Travo Gallery

Matea Bakula has developed a new body of work, where the corrugated cardboard holds a central role, confirming once again Bakula's interest for humble materials and their hidden potential.

Her starting point is whether you are aware or not of the most mundane actions of your routine. Consider replacing a toilet roll for instance. It is not necessary that you do it with your full concentration and yet there is only one way to do it right.









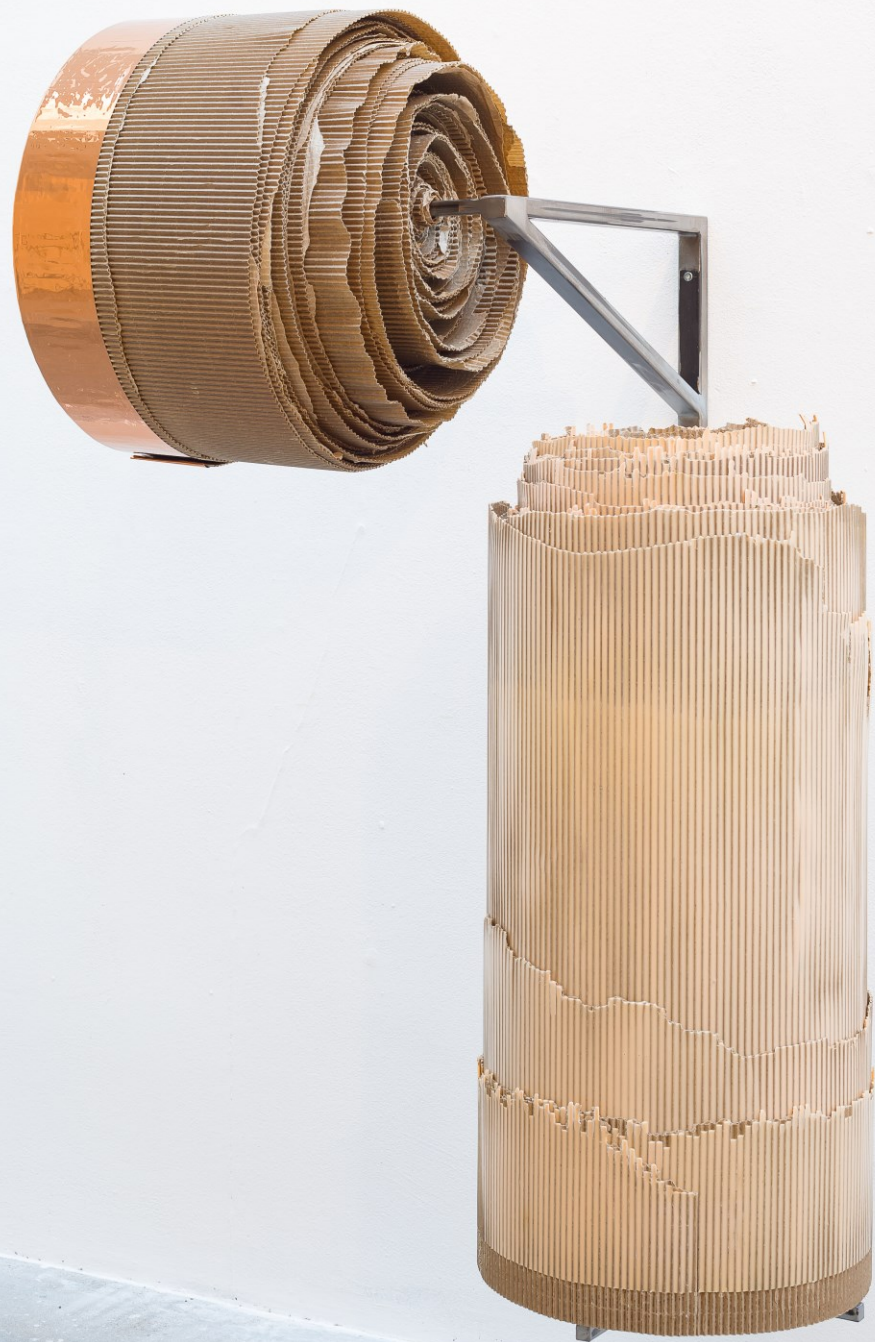
Matea Bakula  
Manipulation tactics, 2020



Matea Bakula  
Shapeshifting, 2020







Matea Bakula  
Ekatarina, 2020







Matea Bakula  
Trascendence, 2020





## **A Letter From a Free Man, 2020**

Het Utrechts Archief

In 'A letter from a free man', artist Matea Bakula investigates what happens when material is not conserved, but rather transforms over time.

The six and a half meters high column that Matea Bakula made for the stairwell of the Utrecht Archives is not made of stone or marble, as you might expect at first glance, but of paper. Paper that is so abundant in Het Utrechts Archief to collect, preserve and preserve the collective memory of the city.









**Between Grace and Fury, 2018**  
Kunstvereniging Diepenheim

Matea has a special interest in materials that are mainly used for their functional qualities, such as packaging, insulating foam, concrete or wax.

Like an alchemist, she subjects them to experiments and forces unusual combinations and processes them using traditional sculpting processes. The otherwise worthless material acquires as a result a new shape.

Matea Bakula  
Dividing the sky, 2014







Matea Bakula  
You have two challenges remaining #2, 2017







Matea Bakula  
The escape of the soft sounds, 2018



Matea Bakula  
Wrestles with my spirit animals #2, 2018



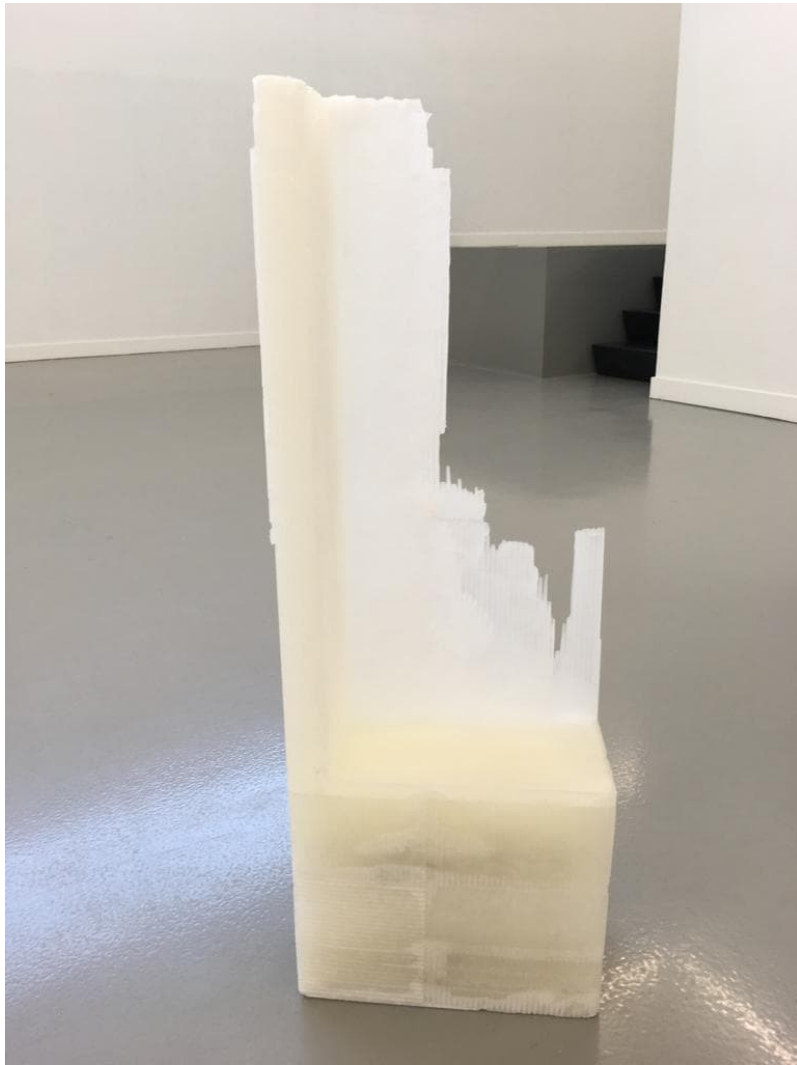


## **Reflections on Nature, 2019**

Lumen Travo Gallery

The group show "Reflections on Nature" deals with what we consider an urgency that is worth to be addressed in this early part of the year, with the hope it will rise the right awareness in our audience: as the title suggests, all the artworks presented in the exhibition relay on the dualistic controversy between natural and artificial, in order to analyze the presence of Nature in such a man-centered world.





Matea Bakula  
In the house of the sun, 2018



Matea Bakula  
The difference between competition and rivalry, 2018



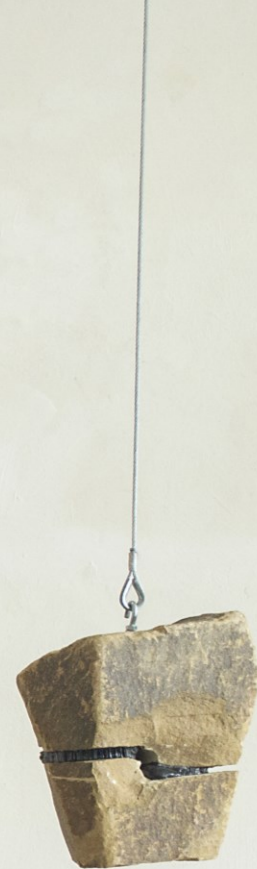
**The chemistry between dr. Frank and me, 2017**  
Lumen Travo Gallery

The two series of works in the exhibition relay on the act of movement. The artist brings the materials of both works to life without unfolding them from their intrinsic values, therefore allowing the materials to keep their substance.

Bakula's fascination and respect for chemicals like polyurethane foam and methylethylketon is clearly visible and it seems that the works are the result of a collaboration in which the artist becomes a choreographer who, by putting it to an extreme, is able to find the profound character of the materials.

Matea Bakula  
You have two challenges remaining , 2017









Matea Bakula  
The march through Flying Fish Cove, 2017



**Matea Bakula** was born in 1990 in Sarajevo. She lives and works in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Recent shows include: Art Rotterdam 2021, "Collector's Item", Centraal Museum, Utrecht (2021); "One eye and two takes on vulnerability" with Milena Naef, Lumen Travo Gallery Amsterdam (2020); "Reflections on Nature" group show, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam (2020); "Between grace and fury", solo show, Kunstvereniging Diepenheim, Diepenheim (2018). Art Cologne (2018); Prospects and concepts, Art Rotterdam (2018); "The chemistry between dr. Frank and me", Lumen Travo gallery (2017); "Work Title Festival", Les Brigittines, Brussels (2016); "Let us meet and let us meet again", Casco, Utrecht (2016); "Work Title Situation #3", Work Space Brussels, Brussels; "I wish I never kissed that frog", Jeanine Hofland, Amsterdam (both in 2015); Matea Bakula, GAVU, Cheb, (Solo), Started, Czech Centres, Prague (both in 2014); Start Point Prize, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam which travelled to KASK, Ghent and Dox, Prague (2013-2014); Formal Attire, Kunstpodium T, Tilburg (2013), Best Of Graduates Exhibitions, Ron Mandos, Amsterdam (2013), among others.

In 2013 Bakula was the recipient of the Startpoint Prize: Best European Emerging Artist in Prague. Matea, as a young artist and emerging talent in the Dutch scene, was also part of the Mondriaan Fund's Prospects & Concepts at Art Rotterdam 2019.





# CV

## Solo Shows

### 2023

Family Jewels, Horizon Verticaals, Haarlem.

### 2021

Art Rotterdam 2021, represented by Lumen Travo gallery, Rotterdam

### 2020

Collector's item, Centraal Museum, Utrecht

Koop dit of dit of dit, Kunskoop exhibition by Mondrian Fund, Capital-C, Amsterdam

### 2018

Between grace and fury, Kunstvereniging Diepenheim, Diepenheim.

Prospects and concepts, Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam.

Unfair, Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam

Art Cologne represented by Lumen Travo gallery , Cologne

### 2017

The chemistry between doctor Frank and me, Lumen Travo gallery, Amsterdam.

### 2016

Dream online art fair, represented by Jeanine Hofland gallery

Work Title Situation #4, Work Space Brussels, Brussels

Let us meet and let us meet again, Casco, Utrecht

### 2015

Work Title Situation #3, Work Space Brussels, Brussels

I wish I never kissed that frog, Jeanine Hofland gallery, Amsterdam.

Art Brussels, represented by Jeanine Hofland gallery, Brussels

Art Rotterdam, represented by Jeanine Hofland gallery , Rotterdam

### 2014

Unfair, Amsterdam.

Matea Bakula (Solo), GAVU, Cheb.

Started, Czech Centres, Prague

Start Point Prize, Arti et Amacetiae, Amsterdam.

We Know This Much, Space Untitled, Maarssen

### 2013

Start Point Prize, KASK, Ghent

The Artist As Producer, Bewaerscholen, Burgh

Start Point Prize, Dox, Prague.

Best Of Graduates Exhibitions, Ron Mandos, Amsterdam.

Exposure, HKU, Utrecht. [Click here](#)

Formal Attire, Kunstpodium T, Tilburg.

## Group Exhibitions

### 2023

A WHEEL A STONE A ROPE A WING (collaboration with Ruta Butkute), Park, Tilburg.

### 2021

Four Positions, De Apotheek, Amsterdam

### 2020

One eye and two takes on vulnerability, Lumen Travo gallery, Amsterdam.

We do matter (collaboration with Nick Steur), Beyond the black box (Vlaams cultuurhuis de Brakke grond), Amsterdam

### 2019

We do matter (collaboration with Nick Steur), Playground festival (STUK), Louvain.

Scenarios of desire II, Emergent, Veurne.

Jonge beelden, Beelden in Leiden, Leiden.

The reflections on nature, Lumen Travo gallery, Amsterdam.

Art Rotterdam, represented by Lumen Travo gallery, Rotterdam

2018

## **Prizes / Honorable Mentions / Nominations / Funds**

### **2020**

Nominated for the K.F.Hein stipend.

### **2019**

Nominated for NN group art award, Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam.

Project investment awarded by Mondrian fund

Project investment award by Gerbrandy culture fund. **2016**

Interest free loan awarded from Fonds Kwadraat

Werkbijdrage Jong Talent awarded by Mondrian fund

### **2013**

Prize winner, Startpoint Prize: Best European Emerging Artist, Prague

## **Residencies**

### **2019**

Residency @ atelier KANS with Nick Steur, made possible by SoAP Maastricht, Brussels

### **2019**

KAMEN artist residency, Orah.

### **2014**

Startpoint Prize Emerging Artist Residency, Prague

## **Activities**

### **2015 -2017**

Member @ Das Spectrum, Utrecht

### **2013 - 2014**

Committee member, Foundation AAN: Platform for starting artists, Utrecht

## **Education**

### **2009 - 2013**

HKU (University of the Arts, Utrechts)

BFA

## **Selection of publications**

### **2019**

Palet Magazine

### **2018**

Between grace and fury, made possible by Kunstvereniging Diepenheim

Mister Motley.

### **2016**

Tijdschrift Ei #46.

### **2014**

Matea Bakula, made possible by GAVU Cheb & Start Point Prize

### **2013**

Startpoint Prize Catalogue 2013





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