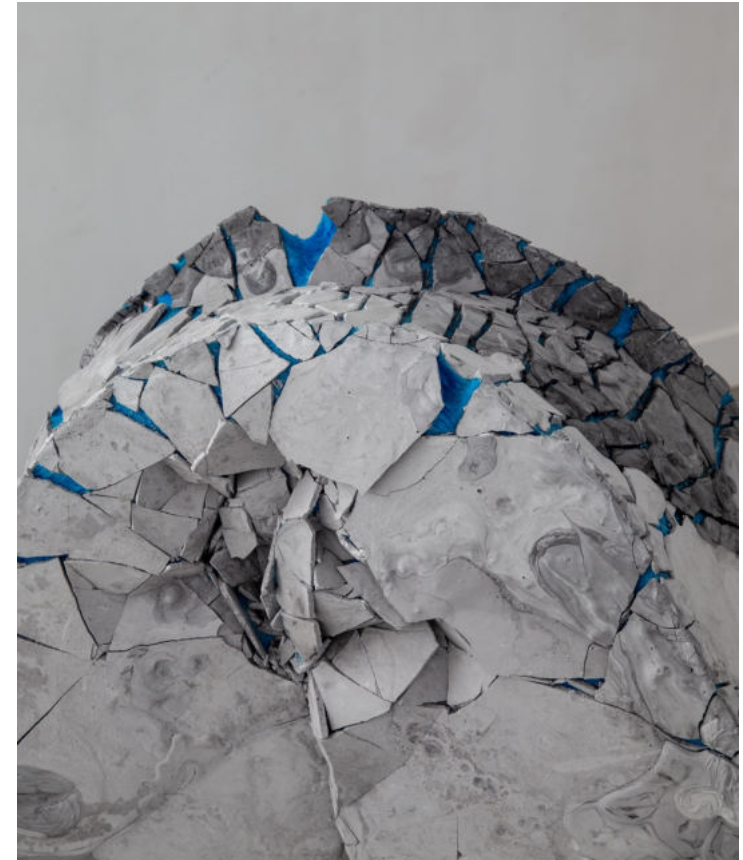


MATEA BAKULA

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 shows us that matter is deeply transformative, its identity is fluid and exciting. The works that are presented here are the result of this never-ending metamorphic process, fueled by the artist's ability and curiosity to explore the infinite potential of materials.



Matea Bakula
Wrestles with my spirit animals #1, 2018



Earthaters, 2023

Group show, Lustwarende, NL

Now that our lives are increasingly determined by algorithms, migration and famines are increasing and virtually no one doubts the severity of the climate crisis anymore, the collective realization that we have entered a new era has dawned.

Earthaters brought together ten young, international artists. Their sculptures and installations formed physical entities that blended seamlessly into the landscape in which they were presented. Because it is precisely in the context of the exhibition's theme that the relationship that the works have with this environment is emphasized: a world in which nature and culture, organism and thing, physical and digital, form one entity.

Matea Bakula, *Sweet Expanse*, 2023
caramelized sugar, steel, sheet metal,
polystyrene, epoxy, aluminium
305 x 60 x 60 cm





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

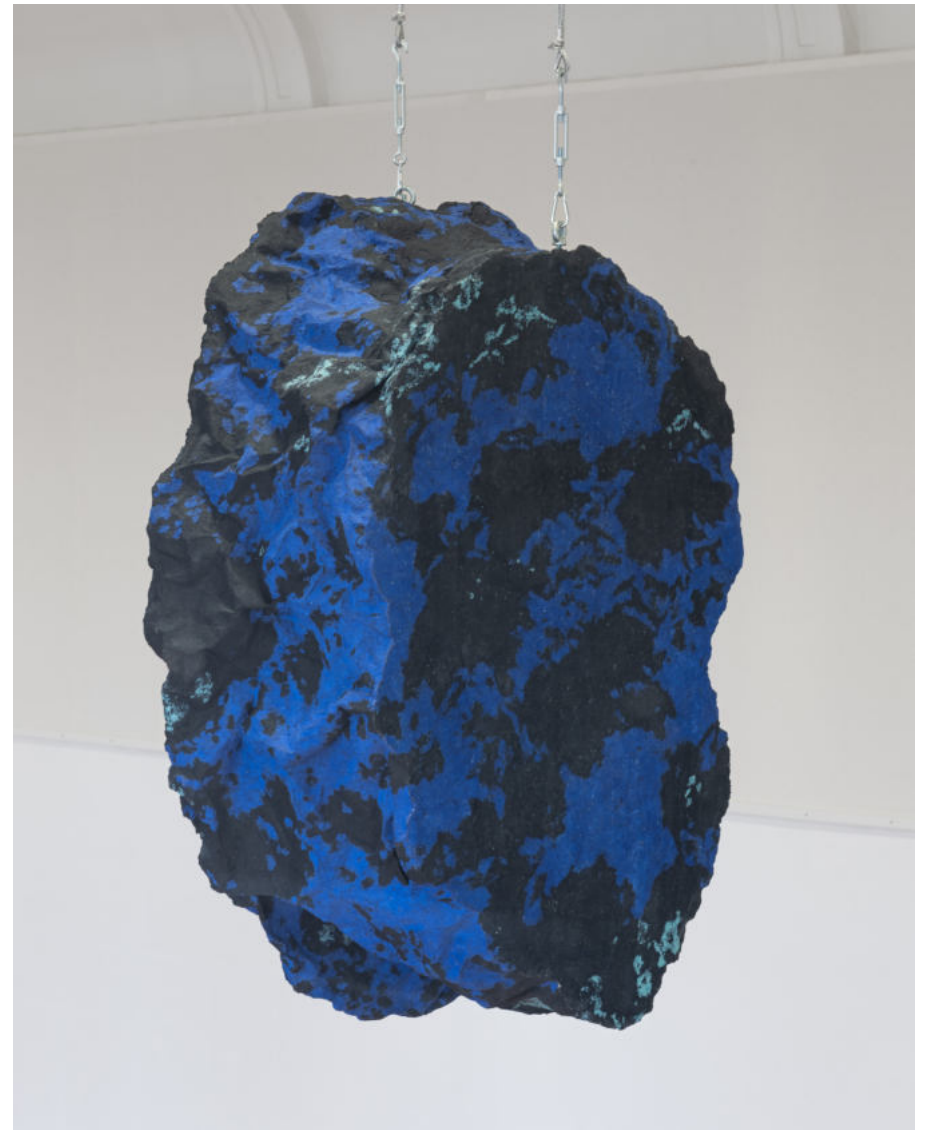


Matea Bakula,
To Gather VII, 2023





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.



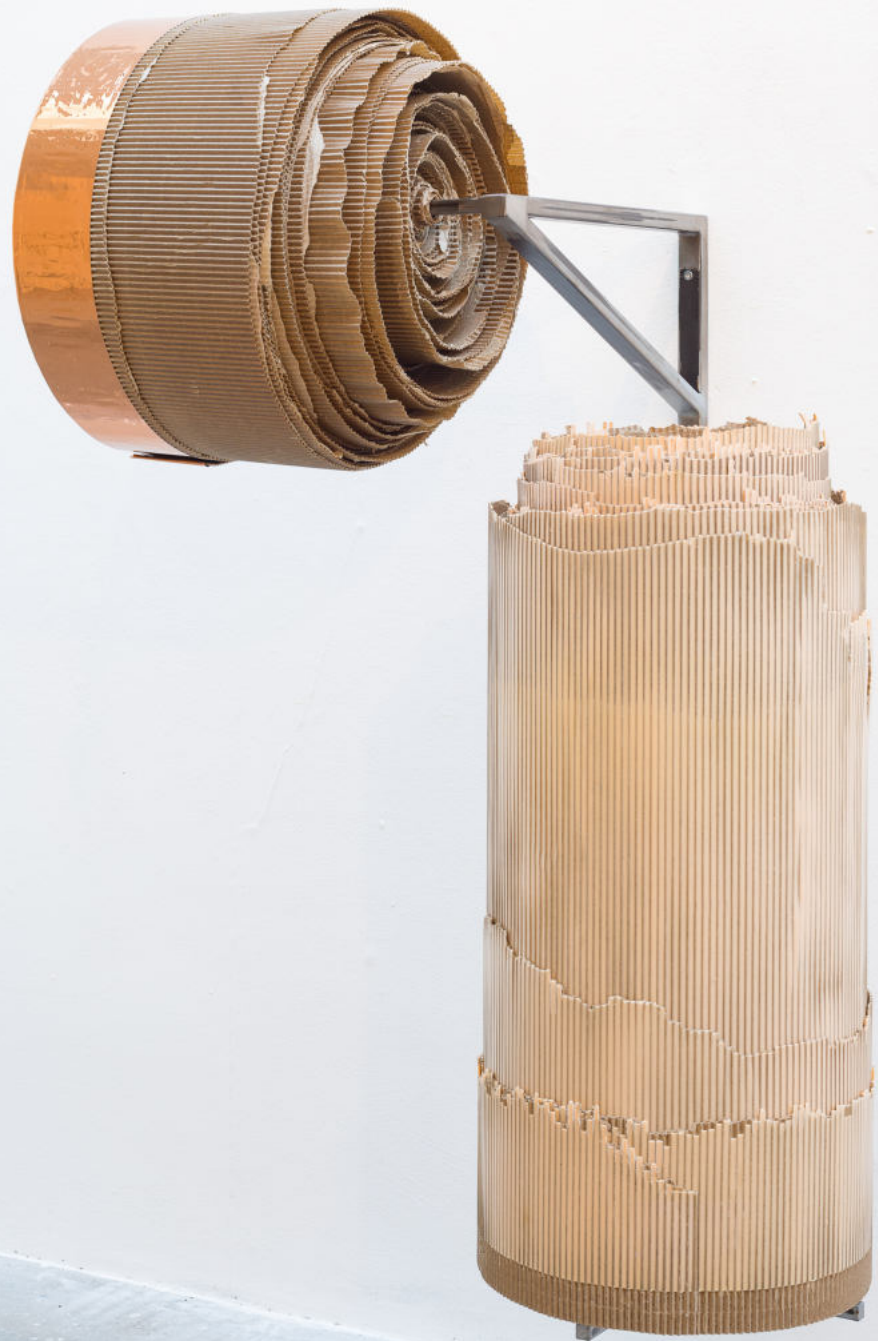


Matea Bakula
Manipulation tactics, 2020

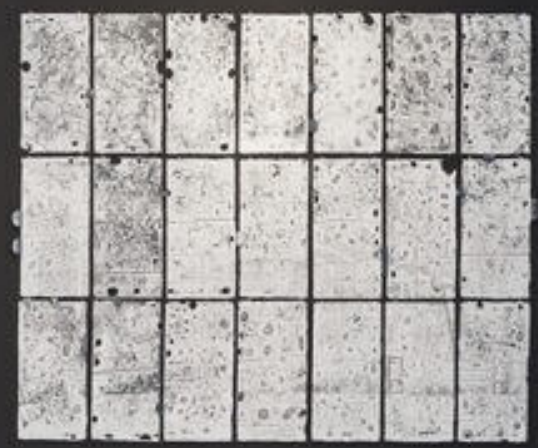


Matea Bakula
Shapeshifting, 2020





Matea Bakula
Ekatarina, 2020





Matea Bakula, *Transcendence*, 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, *The escape of the soft sounds*, 2018

Matea Bakula
Wrestles with my spirit animals #2, 2018



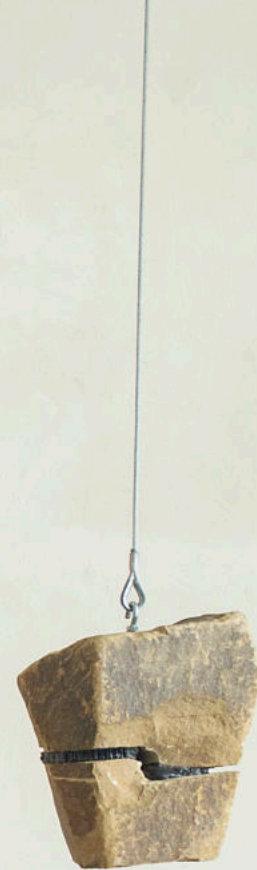
The chemistry between dr. Frank and me, 2017
Lumen Travo Gallery

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

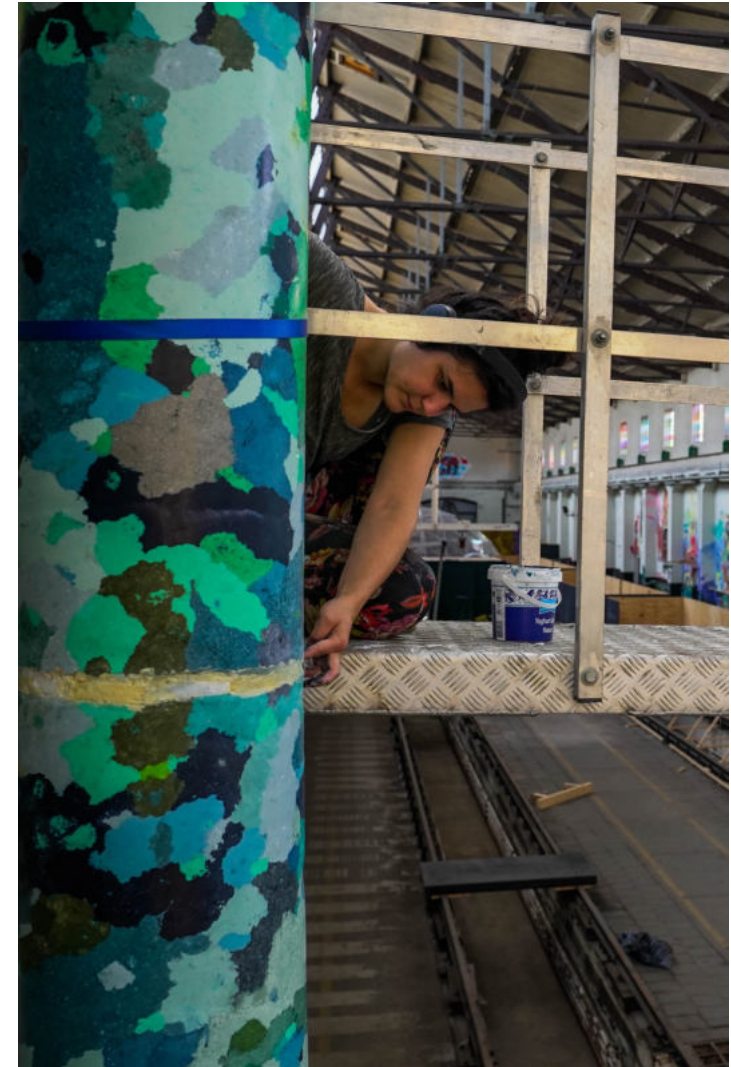


Matea Bakula was born in 1990 in Sarajevo. She lives and works in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Recent shows include: solo exhibition at Buitenplaats Doornburgh, Maarssen (upcoming, 2024), "Eartheaters", Lustwarande (2023); "A Wheel A Rope A Stone A Wing" at Park, Tilburg (2023).

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 artists and emerging talent in the Dutch scene, was also part of the Mondriaan Fund's Prospects & Concepts at Art Rotterdam 2019.



CV

Solo Shows

2024

Solo exhibition at Buitenplaats Doornburgh, Maarssen (upcoming)

2023

A Wheel A Rope A Stone A Wing, Park, Tilburg
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.

Group Exhibitions

2023

Eartheaters, Lustwarande
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

Prospects and concepts, Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam.
Unfair, Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam
Art Cologne represented by Lumen Travo gallery, Cologne

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 Amacetae, Amsterdam.
We Know This Much, Space Untitled, Maarssen

2013

Start Point Prize, KASK, Ghent
The Artist As Producer, Bewaerschole, Burgh
Start Point Prize, Dox, Prague.
Best Of Graduates Exhibitions, Ron Mandos, Amsterdam.
Exposure, HKU, Utrecht. [Click here](#)
Formal Attire, Kunstpodium T, Tilburg.

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

Residencies

2019

Residency @ atelier KANS with Nick Steur, made possible by SoAP Maastricht, Brussels
KAMEN artist residency, Orah

2014

Startpoint Prize Emerging Artist Residency, Prague

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

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



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