

“Trained hawks have a peculiar ability to conjure history because they are in a sense immortal. (...) You take a hawk onto your fist. You imagine the falconer of the past doing the same. It is hard not to feel it is the same hawk.” - Helen Macdonald, “H is for Hawk” -

We are delighted to present new works by Pia Stadtbäumer. The exhibition title, *Little Dove, My Little Dove* is like an endearing address that someone whispers in the ear of his beloved. In fact, the speaker could also be a raptor with his prey, a little dove, in sight.

Helen Macdonald's book “H is for Hawk” was Pia Stadtbäumer's inspiration for this new series. The British writer, Macdonald, describes her personal experience of carrying away a hawk and the process of confronting her father's death. Her story is reminiscent of ‘becoming-animal’ in the sense of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, where an alliance is formed with an ‘anomalous’ being. The encounter with a specific animal, as Captain Ahab asserts in “Moby Dick”, doesn't represent any personal matter. “I (Ahab) must pierce through him, to seize the entire pack and through them go beyond them.” Macdonald revives and brings back her predecessors who were also fascinated with raptors, especially the writer and ‘trainer’ falconer T.H. White. She places emphasis on over a thousand years of falconry history, during which time an entirely unique language and culture emerged.

The evocation of the relationship between man and nature, embodied through wild animals or plants, is also evident in the series “Psychoaktiv” by Pia Stadtbäumer. Here, the artist also engraves the pictorial motifs on a wood panel which is coated with a layer of plaster and dark acrylic paint. The result resembles a negative film. The picture comprised of countless engraving marks, which were milled into the hard plaster layer with the help of a practical precision device, reveals a sculptural process. Like “a feeling, from a delicate touch”, as the artist once described her modelling process, she magnifies and transfers the photographic images. The panels for *Little Dove, My Little Dove* are suspended obliquely with leather straps to the walls of the exhibition room, so evoking a feeling of movement. On entry to the exhibition space, the hemp ropes, which are connected with the mounting of each picture panel, spread across the floor. Perhaps the falconer is just letting the birds take flight.