GALERIE ISABELLE LESMEISTER

WILD THINGS

Andreana Dobreva & Barbara Sophie Höcherl

Exhibition:	November 28, 2026 – February 27, 2027
Opening:	Friday, November 27 at 7 pm
	The artists are present.
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday - Friday 11 am - 1 pm and 2 - 6 pm, Saturday 11 am - 4 pm

November 20, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

With WILD THINGS, the artistic practices of Andreana Dobreva and Barbara Sophie Höcherl come together for the first time in a joint exhibition. Their works engage in a multifaceted dialogue about nature, corporeality and transformation – about the organic and the creaturely, about beauty and disturbance, and about the fragile boundary between the familiar and the strange.

Expressive, color-intensive painting meets sculptural works of equally fragile and unsettling presence. At the centre are bodies in their various manifestations: human and animal bodies that transform, merge with one another and dissolve their boundaries. The familiar becomes strange, organic forms are set in motion, and new hybrid beings emerge. Starting from corporeality, the perspective expands towards nature as an idiosyncratic, unpredictable cosmos in which different forms of life, materials and phenomena intertwine. The result is a world of images and objects that oscillates between fascination and unease, challenging our notions of what is natural.

Andreana Dobreva (*1982 in Sliven, Bulgaria) develops a powerful, physically immediate visual language in her paintings, oscillating between figuration and abstraction. Her works are characterized by dynamic, often impasto brushwork, complex compositions and a pronounced sensitivity to light, shadow and painterly materiality. Her engagement with Italian Baroque painting serves as an important point of reference. Dobreva translates its dramatic staging, sensuality and expressive corporeality into a contemporary visual language.

In her recent works, human bodies, animals, fruit and plant forms intertwine to create opulent, at times surreal compositions. The boundaries between figure and environment, between body and nature, seem to dissolve. Painting itself becomes a site of transformation: forms emerge, overlap and dissolve once again. Beneath the sensual richness of her images, questions of identity, gender, desire and social constructs come to the fore. Dobreva's paintings move between beauty and

excess, vulnerability and vitality – a visual world in which the living reveals itself in all its contradictions.

Barbara Sophie Höcherl (*1983 in Wörth an der Donau, Germany) approaches these themes through a sculptural and installation-based practice. At the heart of her work lies an intensive exploration of the qualities, meanings and transformative possibilities of different materials. Natural materials and organic found objects encounter artificial substances and elements drawn from our consumer culture. Through processes of combining, reshaping and recontextualizing, she creates distinctive worlds of objects that resist clear categorization.

A recurring motif in Höcherl's work is her exploration of the animal world, particularly birds. In her works, she combines different animal bodies and materials to create hybrid, almost fantastical forms. The animals lose their original appearance and become part of new, sometimes enigmatic constructions. A field of tension emerges between the observation of nature and artistic staging, where beauty and unease, vitality and transience meet. Her small-scale works and material studies likewise reveal her fascination with the potential of the fragment, transformation and alienation. Her works invite viewers to look more closely and question their own perceptions of what is natural and what is artificial.

The encounter between the two artists creates a dynamic interplay between painterly gesture and sculptural form, between physical immediacy and material staging. While Dobreva translates the organic into powerful, dynamic pictorial spaces, Höcherl makes its transformation tangible in three-dimensional space. Both practices share an interest in crossing boundaries and in forms of expression that elude fixed categories.

WILD THINGS understands the wild not as something uncivilized or threatening, but as an elemental force of life – something uncontrollable, mutable and profoundly sensual. The exhibition opens up a space of experience between attraction and repulsion, beauty and disturbance, emergence and decay. It invites us to rediscover nature beyond romantic notions: contradictory, mysterious, physical and untamed.

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We look forward to welcoming you to the opening reception and exhibition. Should you require any additional images, we would be happy to provide them.
If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@galerie-lesmeister.de.

PRESS KIT (DOWNLOAD)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZcjIjHhmDzN-5jR1TJ4OudQmW5g2hvLL?usp=share_link

ARTWORK INFORMATION

(1) Andreana Dobreva, *Bouquet*
Oil on canvas, 51.2 x 43.3 in | 130 x 110 cm, 2026

(2) Andreana Dobreva, *Still Life with Yoghurt*
Oil on canvas, 63 x 78.7 in | 160 x 200 cm, 2026

(3) Andreana Dobreva, *Party with Swan*
Oil on canvas, 55.9 x 65.7 in | 142 x 167 cm, 2025

(4) Barbara Sophie Höcherl, *Weihwasserkesselchen - Patre*
Objet trouvé: Holy water stoup with parakeet wing, 2.8 x 5.1 x 1.4 in | 7 x 13 x 3,5 cm, 2026

(5) Barbara Sophie Höcherl, *Rewire*
Objet trouvé: Rubber Tree leaf, framed, 8 x 10.4 | 20,4 x 26,3 cm, 2026

Image Credit: Andreana Dobreva, Barbara Sophie Höcherl

KONTAKT

Galerie Isabelle Lesmeister
Untere Bachgasse 7
93047 Regensburg
Email: info@galerie-lesmeister.de
Phone: +49 163 698 86 82
www.galerie-lesmeister.de