

Jeremy Bakker – with holding

Jeremy Bakker (\*1979 in Canberra; lives and works in Melbourne) conceives of his art as a personal expression of ideas and feelings both towards and amidst nature. For him, nature is an all-encompassing system that manifests itself visually in contrast-rich, polar realities: micro- and macrocosm, distance and proximity, completeness and open-endedness, the factual, the limited and the infinite. In his work, Bakker employs tactile materials and manual repetitions—thus also making his own body part of the processes comprising his artistic system. His repetitive acts are for the most part meditative and intimate, allowing us to immerse ourselves in a delicate sensory world. Bakker's oeuvre also frequently accords the factor of time a central position and significance—such as when he draws concentric circles as a shorthand of sorts via which to measure out an entire day.

Most recently, during his on-going residency in Krems, Jeremy Bakker has developed objects for the present exhibition at Kunstverein Baden: *with holding* features things such as the absurd attempt to hold up time by damaging a clock (thus locking in a certain time of day), or an intervention in the cycle of nature that involves falling autumn leaves being caught in a butterfly net in order to prevent their landing on the ground. A central characteristic of Bakker's work is his highly precise, minimalist employment of material; this gives rise to extraordinarily aesthetic objects that seem to be quite simple but are actually—much like in traditional Japanese art—possessed of a deep natural philosophical core. Bakker's works are process-dependent and for the most part ephemeral, ultimately reuniting with nature.

Jeremy Bakker's *with holding* is a cooperative project of Kunstverein Baden with AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE of Lower Austria. The artist is currently a guest of AIR-ARTIST IN RESIDENCE in Krems as part of an exchange scholarship linked with Australia's RMIT SITUATE Resident Artists Program.

Florian Steininger