

Judith P. Fischer, born in Linz and brought up in Hainburg/ Lower Austria, is a multi-talented artist. At the same time as completing a degree in sculpture at the Hochschule für angewandte Kunst¹ (graduated in 1991), she also trained as a classical singer at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst² in Vienna (graduated in 1992). During the initial stage of her professional career she remained loyal to both forms of artistic expression, however her sculptural work finally gained the upper hand.

The starting point for Judith.P.Fischer's work are always the shapes and structures of nature, which she, on the one hand, transforms into exact objects, and on the other, develops further into sensual, vegetational forms. Initially her work was dominated by aesthetically elegant, constructive works made of sheet steel, characterised by movement and inner tension, and suggestive of large-sized freestanding sculptures. A number of her works were indeed created for public spaces, and in 1998 Judith was awarded the *Pfann-Ohmann Award* for public space art for the sculptural group *Diffusion*. The inclusion of computer-generated photo series (morphings) next to objects, documenting in individual images their transformation from natural to art objects, means that the observer can understand how this transformation took place. Indeed, the photographic morphings could in themselves be regarded as independent two-dimensional works of art.

Fischer's other work is characterised by experimentation with ideas, concepts and synthetic, soft material. Her luxuriant, vegetational, ball-shaped chrysanthemums were partly created using everyday silicon and latex products such as balloons and rubber gloves, as were the stelar-like objects with their fetishistic/erotic connotations.

In her latest work, the theme of which is *Order and Chaos*, Judith.P.Fischer has used soft elastomer round cords in different colours, which, compared with the balloons and rubber gloves used during previous years, have the advantage of being extremely durable and long-lasting. "It is so much fun to work with this material, to thread it and wind it, tie and truss it," comments Judith.P.Fischer.

In 2004 Judith.P.Fischer created a much-admired "art-on-the-building-site" sculpture in Korneuburg/Austria out of this sealing material, which is used for fridges and freezers. *Cascade*, 7.50 m high and 1.50 m wide, fills the atrium of a new school building with eight repetitive colours.

In the moment the artist is working on outsized "boules" consisting of round shapes wrapped in elastomer cord, and striking both in terms of form and colour as well as their aesthetic impact.

Tied together to form a supporting structure, they make seductively attractive *dream pillow* for sweet dreams. On the other hand they can provoke "Brazil"-like nightmares when they take on a life of their own and threaten to photographically "tie up" the face of their creator or entwine themselves in a Medusa-like fashion around her head.

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² University for Music and Interpretative Arts