

Olga Balema

*The bizarre space of complex
numbers*
29.NOV.2025–1.FEB.2026

PRESS TOUR
28.NOV.2025, 11:00

OPENING
28.NOV.2025, 17:00

PRESS CONTACT
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[→ IMAGES](#)



Olga Balema, *Computer*, detail view, Camden Art Centre, London, 2021. Photo: Rob Harris. Courtesy of the artist, Croy Nielsen, Vienna, Trautwein Herleth, Berlin and Hoffman Donahue, New York/Los Angeles

OLGA BALEMA
THE BIZARRE SPACE OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

Olga Balema's practice explores sculpture as a form open to reconfiguration and process. *The bizarre space of complex numbers* is dedicated to Balema's floor works of the last years and is the first solo exhibition of the artist in Switzerland. It proposes the floor as an open field in which relations and configurations are set up in the horizontal as a kind of anti-monumental plane, involving processes of frottage, scuffing, cutting, stitching, bending, tying together, linking, and releasing. Balema's work situates form and form-making between intentionality and chance and involves a continued reworking of existing elements.

Olga Balema (b. 1984 in Lviv, Ukraine) lives and works in New York.

The exhibition is curated by Kathrin Bentele, the new Artistic Director at Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg, and has been initiated by Nicolas Brulhart.



Olga Balema, *brain damage*, installation view, Bridget Donahue, New York, 2019



Olga Balema, *Computer*, detail view, Camden Art Centre, London, 2021. Photo: Rob Harris. Courtesy of the artist, Croy Nielsen, Vienna, Trautwein Herleth, Berlin and Hoffman Donahue, New York/Los Angeles

CV

EDUCATION

2007–2009 MFA in New Genres, University of California Los Angeles
2002–2006 BFA in Sculpture, University of Iowa

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *The bizarre space of complex numbers*, Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg (upcoming)
2025 Trautwein Herleth, Berlin (upcoming)
2025 *The Distance*, Kunstverein in Hamburg
2023 *Olga Balema: The Third Dimension*, Bridget Donahue, New York
2023 *Loon*, Hannah Hofmann, Los Angeles
2023 *Olga Balema*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2022 *Formulas*, Croy Nielsen, Vienna
2021 *Computer*, Camden Arts Centre, London
2019 *brain damage*, Bridget Donahue, New York
2017 *None of the beauty of the landscape can reach her pupils anymore*, High Art, Paris
2017 *On The Brink Of My Sexy Apocalypse*, Hannah Hoffman, Los Angeles
2016 *Early Man*, Swiss Institute, New York
2016 *Motherland*, Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2016 *Blasted Heath*, Capri, Düsseldorf
2015 *One reenters the garden by becoming a vegetable*, Kunstverein Nürnberg, Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nürnberg
2015 *Cannibals*, Croy Nielsen, Berlin
2015 *Olga Balema & Anne De Vries: Listening*, Michael Thibault, Los Angeles
2014 *Her Curves*, High Art, Paris
2014 *Warm Bodies* (with Jonathan Baldock), Kunstvereiniging Diepenheim, Diepenheim
2013 *Body of Work*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2013 *What Enters*, 1646, Den Haag
2011 *Positive thinking: Actions speak louder than words*, The Vanity, Los Angeles

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

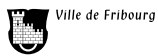
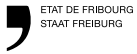
2025 *Diane A*, Arcadia Missa, London
2025 *Medardo Rosso*, Kunstmuseum Basel (in collaboration with MUMOK, Vienna)
2025 *Nothing is Permanent*, Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2024 *Olga Balema*, John McCracken, Stella Zhong; The Power Station, Dallas
2024 *Medardo Rosso*, MUMOK, Vienna (in collaboration with Kunstmuseum Basel)
2024 *KölnSkulptur #11*, Sculpture Park Cologne
2024 *DIETRICH* (curated by Anne Pontégnie), Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich
2024 *Vertices* (duo with Anne Tallentire), The Mill, Lismore Castle Arts, Waterford
2024 *True Colors*, Trautwein Herleth, Berlin
2024 *Two To Tango (3)*, Sperling, Munich
2023 *Irradiation*, What Pipeline, Detroit
2023 *Looking Back / The 13th White Columns Annual*, White Columns, New York
2022 *Olga Balema*, Geta Brătescu, Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin
2022 *Insolvency, my friend*, curated by Nicholas Tammens, Charim, Vienna
2022 *Manhattan*, Claude Balls, New York
2022 *Olga Balema & Win McCarthy*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2021 *Itinerarios XXVII*, Centro Botín, Santander, Spain
2020 *Around the Day in Eight Worlds. A Decentered Gaze on the CAPC Collection*, CAPC Bordeaux
2020 *Körper. Blicke. Macht*, Kunsthalle Baden
2019 *YOU – Works from the Lafayette Anticipations Collection*, Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris
2019 *Maskulinitäten*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
2019 *A House Is Not A Home*, Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg

2019 *Whitney Biennial 2019*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
2018 Paulo Cunha E Silva Art Prize, Galeria Municipal Do Porto
2018 *Give up the Ghost*, Baltic Triennale, BTXIII CAC, Vilnius, Tallinn Art Hall, Kim?, Riga
2018 *Blind Faith: Between the Visceral and the Cognitive in Contemporary Art*, Haus der Kunst, Munich
2018 *Converter*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen
2017 *Ungestalt*, Kunsthalle Basel
2017 *PRODUKTION. made in germany drei*, Kunstverein Hannover, Sprengelmuseum, Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover
2017 *Hours and Hours of Inactivity*, n.b.k, Berlin
2016 *30: Untitled 1989*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam
2016 *I Want To Live in the Country (and Other Romances)*, Kunsthalle Bern
2016 *Adhesive Products*, Bergen Kunsthall
2016 *Wer Nicht Denken Will, Fliegt Raus: Handlungsanweisungen nach Beuys*, Museum Kurhaus Kleve
2016 *I Am Still Alive – On the Materialities of Life*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm
2015 *Stranger than paradise*, Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf
2015 *Function Follows Vision*, Vision Follows Reality, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
2015 *Surround Audience*, Triennial, New Museum, New York
2014 *Doom: Surface Control*, Le Magasin Grenoble – CNAC, Grenoble
2014 *Puddle, pothole, portal*, Sculpture Center, New York
2014 *Dylan’s lost it – maybe*, Croy Nielsen, Berlin
2014 *New Dawn*, Silberkuppe, Berlin
2014 *From whose ground heaven and hell compare*, Croy Nielsen, Berlin
2014 *Nature after Nature*, Fridericianum, Kassel
2014 *Geographies of Contamination*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London
2014 *Apples and Pears*, DREI, Cologne
2013 <3, High Art, Paris

PRESS

2025 Weber, Eleanor Ivory, “Loop: Substance and Circumstance”, *Flash Art*, June
2025 Orion Dal Colle, Leonardo, “Olga Balema ‘The Distance’ at Kunstverein in Hamburg”, *Mousse*, May
2025 Asthoff, Jens, “Olga Balema: Kunstverein in Hamburg”, *Artforum*, March
2023 Schwendener, Martha, “What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in December “, *The New York Times*, December
2023 Simonini, Ross, “Olga Balema: There is No Outside of Language”, *ArtReview*, February
2019 Mohebbi, Sohrab, “Best of 2019”, *Artforum*, December
2019 Brown, Laura, “Olga Balema, ‘brain damage’ ”, *Flash Art*, September/October, p. 108–109
2019 Dayal, Mira, “Olga Balema’s Rubber Band Works Show How Less Can Be More”, *Artforum*, September
2019 Farley, Amelia, “Olga Balema: brain damage”, *The Brooklyn Rail*, July
2019 “Olga Balema at Bridget Donahue”, *Contemporary Art Writing Daily*, July
2019 Schwendener, Martha, “Olga Balema”, *The New York Times*, July
2019 C. Rhinehart, “New York – Olga Balema: ‘Brain Damage’ at Bridget Donahue Through July 6th, 2019”, *Art Observed*, July
2017 Rosemeyer, Aoife, “Ungestalt”, *ArtReview*, October
2017 Griffin, Jonathan, “Olga Balema”, *Frieze*, April, issue 186
2017 Sutton, Kate, “Olga Balema, Marlie Mul, Iza Tarasewicz”, *Frieze*, February
2016 van den Boogerd, Dominic, “Olga Balema”, *ArtReview*, September
2015 Edmonson, Tess. “Olga Balema”, *Frieze*, February, issue 176
2015 Wilk, Elvia, “Olga Balema. Zwischen den Körpern”, *Frieze*, May, no. 19
2015 Latimer, Quinn, “Olga Balema”, *Artforum*, April
2014 “Meet artist Olga Balema”, *Kaleidoscope # 20*, Winter

SUPPORTED BY



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXTENSIVE EVENT PROGRAM. PLEASE FIND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.

WWW.FRIART.CH

OPENING HOURS

MO-TUE BY APPOINTMENT
WED-FRI 12AM-6PM
SAT-SUN 1-6PM