

## Katalin Deér

Location: Hotel Terrace, gallery above the lobby

Understanding the world means, first and foremost, touching it with our hands. By feeling edges and surfaces, babies learn to develop a precise idea of the objects they are looking at—and to recognize them even when they can no longer see them.

“It is our hands that we use to create space,” says Katalin Deér. In her artistic work, she has long been interested in the translation of spatial perception into the two-dimensionality of the photographic image. How can space be brought into the surface and vice versa? For years, she has been collecting photographs of hands that suggest, grasp, model and describe space. For her work *Ur Haus Hand*, which she created for *Backstage Engelberg* in the gallery above the lobby of the Hotel Terrace, Deér has now compiled a choreography of some 70 images from this collection. Sometimes the hands are closely related to each other by gesture, as in a pas de deux, or they enter into a dialog with a cast of her own hand; sometimes the painted hands of Mary holding the baby Jesus seek proximity to the tattooed hands of a man forming a clay object. What unites the pictures is Deér’s exploratory view of the hand as a space-forming organ and as a direct connection between the body and the world. (*roe*)

Katalin Deér, born 1965 in Palo Alto, USA, lives and works in St. Gallen, Switzerland, since 2003. Her work has been exhibited in Switzerland at the Klause, St. Gallen (2022), the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (2020), the Alte Fabrik, Rapperswil (2019), the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (2018) and Arte Castasegna (2018), among others. Deér has also published numerous artist’s books.

Further information: [katalindeer.ch](http://katalindeer.ch)