

Melli Ink

Location: Hotel Bellevue-Terminus Erlen Saal / Pfisterhueslil, first floor

This sky, these mountains! Up here between Titlis, Trüebsee and Rigidalstock, there are many reasons to be humble before nature. The local flora, on the other hand, receives less attention. Stinging nettles and orchids are seen only in passing, out of the corner of the eye, as a blurry green fringe on the path leading from the valley to the summit.

With her installation *Alpine Herb Mix*, created especially for *Backstage Engelberg*, Zurich-based artist Melli Ink brings common vegetation from the roadside to the stage of art. Her work revolves around the slowly dying knowledge of the healing and poisonous effects of widespread plants that grow in Tyrol—where the artist grew up—as well as in Engelberg. Inspired by Dutch still lifes from the 17th-century, Ink presents a herbarium of plant sculptures made of mouth-blown glass, ranging from thistles and sorrel to lady's slipper, whose fragile beauty points to the vulnerability of our lives and our increasing alienation from nature.

An example of the subtle humor with which Ink views the world is provided by her *Superbrain* made of sinuous forms covered in dirndl fabric. In a traditional apron look, the pillow-soft giant brain stands for female self-determination and intelligence that defies its assigned domestic role. (roe)

Melli Ink, born 1972 in Innsbruck, Austria, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. Her works have been exhibited in Switzerland at Kunstmuseum Olten (2020), Studio K3, Zurich (2020), at the 8th Biennale Weiertal, Winterthur (2019), and at *Manifesta 11*, Zurich (2016), among others. Further information: melli-ink.com