

## **Mirko Baselgia**

Location: Ochsenmatt Gadä, ground floor

Taking the train instead of flying, buying local and seasonal instead of having strawberries and asparagus on the table all year round: more and more people are thinking about how to live sustainably. Mirko Baselgia has decided to make his art as sustainable as possible.

The tree trunks that Baselgia has given a new skin are from the forest near his studio. Trees are the epitome of sustainability; a lime tree, for example, is said to grow for three hundred years, stand for three hundred years and die for three hundred years. A tree attacked by bark beetles is only lost from a human perspective, because throughout its life it is part of its environment and the basis of life for other organisms.

Baselgia extends the circle of life of trees by making them the material of his sculptures. He straightens them and dresses the trunks, some of which are as tall as a man and some taller, in custom-made outer skins. Their new bark consists of wooden shingles, veneer or scales cut from old flour sacks and packaging material. The holes of woodpecker forges can be seen on their surface. Or, as in *Spiral Beauty*, he exposes the grain of the tree. Spiral growth not only makes a tree more resilient, it is also one of the basic forms of life: we find spirals in snail shells and even in the double helix of human DNA. Trees communicate with their environment. Learning from them means not wasting resources. (ah)

Mirko Baselgia, born 1982 in Lantsch, lives in Lain, Switzerland. His Swiss exhibitions include presentations at the Museo Villa Dei Cedri, Bellinzona (2024), the Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur (2022) and the Kunst(Zeug)Haus Rapperswil-Jona (2021). In Germany, Baselgia's art has been shown at the Koenigmuseum Landshut (2023) and the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (2022).

Further information: [baselgia.com](http://baselgia.com)