

# KÖNIG GALERIE

**MONA ARDELEANU**

**SOFT CRUSH**

4 JULY – 2 AUGUST 2020

ST. AGNES | CHAPEL

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Due to the current situation surrounding the Covid-19 epidemic, the exhibition can only be visited after booking a time slot and the gallery will allow a restricted number of visitors at a time into the space to keep everyone safe.

Patterned fabrics, lace, tassels or furs form the elements from which Mona Ardeleanu creates mysterious objects. Her works attract the visitor's eye, the soft fabric evoke warmth, traditional patterns recall memories of the familiar. "Soft Crush" is, on the one hand, the description of a spontaneous attraction and at the same time an expression of the soft materiality of the depicted objects. For the artist, fabrics carry emotions, they create identity as well as uniformity. At the same time, they form the boundary between the inside and the outside, offering protection from the cold or from glances. The patterns and shapes shown create associations with canopies, lanterns and lace doilies. Ardeleanu draws non-hierarchically from European and Asian tradition. Design and handicrafts are important sources of inspiration for her. This is evident in the artful draping, interweaving and intertwining and in the references to handicraft aids such as embroidery or weaving frames.

The works oscillate between figurative and abstract; they are indefinable hybrids that only emerge on the canvas as surreal fantasy objects. The spontaneity of the creation contrasts with the fine painting. The works are precisely composed and executed with an almost old masterly precision. Ardeleanu works on the flat surface of a canvas, but the drapes of her fabrics create the illusion of a three-dimensional space. The suggestion of silhouettes, hair and braids gives the impression of physicality, Ardeleanu herself calls her objects "bodies". They usually hover in monochrome picture spaces, which further emphasizes their fantastic character and sculptural quality. However, Ardeleanu is increasingly softening this strict pattern. In *Fade 2020 / V*, she surrounds the tunic-like object with a ring of light, as if the fabric itself was shining from the inside.

On closer inspection, the ostensible calm and harmony of the compositions are disturbed by distortions and breaks in the surfaces. Looking at them is a game with perception. Ardeleanu's structures only exist on the canvas and therefore do not have to take physical laws or historical accuracy into account. The titles are unique creations that descriptively expand the work on a linguistic level. *Fade 2020 / IV* almost appears as a head with a kind of Flanders hood, but the material is nevertheless taken from the Japanese tradition. In *Pliss 2020 / II* she works out a silhouette like in a classic shadow cut; the pattern is reminiscent of Biedermeier ornaments. It is only when you take a closer look that one can see that the children are wearing modern clothes. Works like *Gehänge II* or *Schnürungen 2020 / I* evade any formal identification and only serve their own end as objects of pure illusion.

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OPENING HOURS  
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APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
ON KOENIGGALERIE.COM

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**Mona Ardeleanu** (\*1984 in Lörrach) lives and works in Stuttgart. Her work has already been shown in the Stuttgart Art Museum, the Kunsthalle Nürnberg, the Deichtorhallen in Hamburg and the Marta Herford Museum. Her work can be found in the collections of the State of Baden-Württemberg, the Stuttgart Art Museum, the Marta Herford Collection and the Würth Collection.

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