

WOLFGANG SOPHIE

**Stoff ihrer Stoffe**

**The material of their materials**

**Hommage à Sophie Taeuber-Arp**

**Ein poetisches Werkbild**

**von Wolfgang Nestler**

September 6, 2020 - January 15, 2022

Kunstraum Krüger | Berlin

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Wolfgang Nestler, Taeuber-Haus, Trogen, 2006

**"The world's primordial material – and this includes the substance of childhood – is given a language by artists and poets and it is effective in them", says the sculptor Wolfgang Nestler. "Just as the art of Sophie Taeuber-Arp is connected to the experiences of her childhood, with the house she grew up in." This idea is revived by the twice Documenta-participant in his installation "Stoff ihrer Stoffe - Hommage à Sophie Taeuber-Arp" [The material of their materials – Hommage à Sophie Taeuber-Arp]. It can be seen from September 6, 2020 through January 15, 2022 at Kunstraum Krüger | Berlin.**

At the center of Wolfgang Nestler's second homage to Sophie Taeuber-Arp is an approximately six-meter long, angled table with which the sculptor transposes a two-dimensional form from Taeuber-Arp's gouache "Six espaces avec croix" (created in 1932) into three-dimensional space. The large blue table is an invitation: It is the surface staging Nestler's photographs of the house and landscape in which Sophie Taeuber-Arp lived in Switzerland as a child. A total of 150 photographs can be seen at Kunstraum Krüger. They explore the "red house" in Trogen, built by Sophie's mother at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the landscape of the Appenzell region as geographical sculptures, as the origin of Sophie Taeuber-Arp's creative vision.

Sophie Taeuber-Arp was a freelance artist as well as an editor and interior designer. Hans Arp, her husband, wrote about his wife, who died in 1943: "She dreamt day and night of living circles." In the style of her designs for a round table and a smaller side table created in Paris in 1930, Wolfgang Nestler redesigned and built the two pieces of furniture for the exhibition in Appenzell in 2009. Together with these and the photographs, he engages his two circular sculptures "Sonnenerinnerung" [Remembering the sun] and "Begreif den Kreis und entscheide Dich" [Grasp the circle and decide] into a dialogue.

Visitors are invited to trace both the photographic world of forms and shapes on the table as well as the impulses of the circular sculptures by creating their own experience through them: To discover within themselves, and together with Taeuber-Arp's and Nestler's sculptural systems of order, that they can set something in motion and that something within them is stimulated also means asking new questions about art. "This dialogical approach is at the core of the concept of this exhibition as it has shaped the artistic creations of my artist colleague as well," says Wolfgang Nestler.

"Both Wolfgang Nestler's and Sophie Taeuber-Arp's interests lie in the experience of form and in movement," observed Dr. Roland Scotti, curator and managing director of the Heinrich Gebert Cultural Foundation Appenzell, Appenzell Art Museum and Kunsthalle Ziegelhütte, on the occasion of Wolfgang Nestler's exhibition "Sophie's Islands" in 2009. Similarities between Sophie Taeuber-Arp and Wolfgang Nestler can be discovered, according to Scotti, "in their undogmatic artistic attitude, in a playful yet precise openness of design, in their consistent structuring of spaces [...], and an energetic penetration of the individual works that occasionally recall choreographed traces of figural shapes [...]."

"They are related artists," writes Johannes Kühn, winner of the Friedrich Hölderlin Award, in his poem from 2020 "Wolfgang Nestler, / Sophie Taeuber-Arp". The first lines of the verse read: "Their lightness breezing in my mind / Must be supremely lauded! - / Sophie died the very year / That he was born."

### **Wolfgang Nestler: Exhibitions and Awards - a selection**

2019 ZKM Karlsruhe, NegativerRaum [Negative Space]; 2018 Galerie Wack, Kaiserslautern; 2017 Institut für aktuelle Kunst [Institute for Contemporary Art], Saarlouis; 2009 Sophie's Islands, Hommage à Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Kunsthalle Ziegelhütte, Appenzell; 2006 Was ist Plastik? 100 Jahre - 100 Köpfe [What is Sculpture? 100 years-100 heads]. Das Jahrhundert moderner Skulptur [The Century of Modern Sculpture], Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg; 1993 Stahlplastik in Deutschland [Steel Sculpture in Germany], Moritzburg, Halle; 1987 documenta 8; 1985 Deutsche Kunst nach 1945 [German Art after 1945], National Gallery Berlin; 1977 documenta 6; 1974 Haus Lange, Krefeld. Among others, Wolfgang Nestler has been awarded the Karl Schmidt Rottluff Scholarship (1977), the Art Critics' Award (1980), the Robert Schuman Art Award (1995) and the Saarland Award for University Teaching (2005).

Nestler's works are represented in 17 collections throughout Germany, including the National Gallery in Berlin, the Lenbachhaus in Munich, the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, the Von der Heydt Museum in Wuppertal, the Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, the Landesmuseum Mainz and the ZKM Karlsruhe. Further Information at [www.wolfgang-nestler.de](http://www.wolfgang-nestler.de).

### **Invitation to the Exhibition Opening**

Journalists are warmly invited to attend the exhibition opening on Sunday, September 6, at 11 a.m. at the Kunstraum Krüger, Hohenstaufenstraße 67, 10781 Berlin. The opening speaker will be Dr. Anett Holzheid, ZKM Karlsruhe. The exhibition will be open through February 28, 2021, Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. and by appointment via e-mail to [info@kunstraum-krueger-berlin.com](mailto:info@kunstraum-krueger-berlin.com).

Kunstraum Krüger | Berlin promotes encounters with the ever alert core of art and culture.  
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