

# FLY - I CATCHER

In February 2019, after many hours observing horses and zebras to register the number of blood-sucking flies buzzing around, approaching and landing on the animals, a group of British scientists recorded that flies were three times more attracted to horses than they were to zebras.

Is it due to their smell ? To their behavior ? wondered the group.

They then had the idea to put zebra costumes on the horses.

This daring scientific gesture demonstrated the following: horses dressed up as zebras attract as many flies as zebras, that is, three times less as horses not dressed up as zebras, simply as themselves: horses.

The conclusion could only be the following:  
flies are repelled by the patterns of zebras.

« We have observed that flies approaching zebras would not slow down in a controlled manner at the end of their flying trajectory, even though they would regularly slow down in a controlled manner at the end of their flying trajectory before landing on a horse » stated a British researcher among the group. « Furthermore, one could understand that the zebra's coat pattern diminish their capacity to control their flying. This could be due to the polarizing effect of the black and white, or to a loss of perspective engendered by the stripes ».

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Like in an animal pen, the space is divided, the look and the path are planned. The visitor of the art space, almost banned from entering, is attracted into it like into a fly trap. If the hanging visuals are at first sight harmless, reminding a retro wallpaper, their initial function is that of eliminating the harmful, whose trajectory of flight is hijacked by bright colors and the perspective of the geometrical pattern - which they confuse with the representation of a home.

The morbid geometric translation of the insect-scale to the human-scale questions what is commonly approved, the variability of our tolerance among a manufactured natural selection.

Aesthetic traps attract the pattern lovers, like the fly in a glass of syrup.



## Valentina MINNIG (1991, CH)

Born in Chur and based in Zurich, Valentina Minnig is currently studying at the Zurich University of the Arts for a MA in Visual Arts. Having grown up in Graubünden, the artist's work revolves around the contemporary realities of Swiss rural and agricultural life. Through the anarchic use of different technologies, she addresses the interface between nature and civilization - with a humorous perception of the intertwining of daily life and technological progress.

Valentina has exhibited in many art spaces in German-speaking Switzerland and recently won the Kiefer Hablitzel / Göhner prize. Fly-I Catcher is her first solo exhibition in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

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