

LAILA

MARILENA

SELECTED WORKS 2023-2025 | PORTFOLIO

ARTIST STATEMENT 2025

Drawn to what overflows, what refuses containment, I approach painting as pain(t[h]ing): both wound and gesture, both surface and depth. Through layering and reworking, my work traces how marks carry histories of rupture and repair.

I move through psychological concepts, philosophy, and poetry not as separate disciplines but as interwoven modes of sensing and making. At its core, my work follows the path of slowly unlayering the self, culture, and memory - while remaining entangled in the collective.

My practice seeks to hold contradictions without dissolving them, to create symbolic narratives where emotional complexity, vulnerable intelligence, and internal polyphony are not only allowed but necessary.

Accepting breakage 2024,
acrylics on canvas, 130 x 200 cm





CROSSING THE UNCONSCIOUS 2025

Depicts a meditative journey toward inner and collective wholeness. It speaks to taking action and rising from the mire of the soul, not as an escape, but as the lifelong work of making the unconscious conscious.

Crossing the unconscious,
acrylic paint and oil pastel on
canvas, with relief elements
and objet trouvé, silver foil,
60 x 60 cm



Crossing the unconscious, exhibition view, 2025, photo by Nadia Moen

acrylic paint and oil pastel on canvas, with relief elements and objet trouvé, silver foil, 60 x 60 cm



THE EGODEATH
2023-2025

Describes an allegorical visualisation of a fictional narrative about the ego, based on a ten-part series of works created collaboratively by artists from Chur. The work is the seventh in the series.

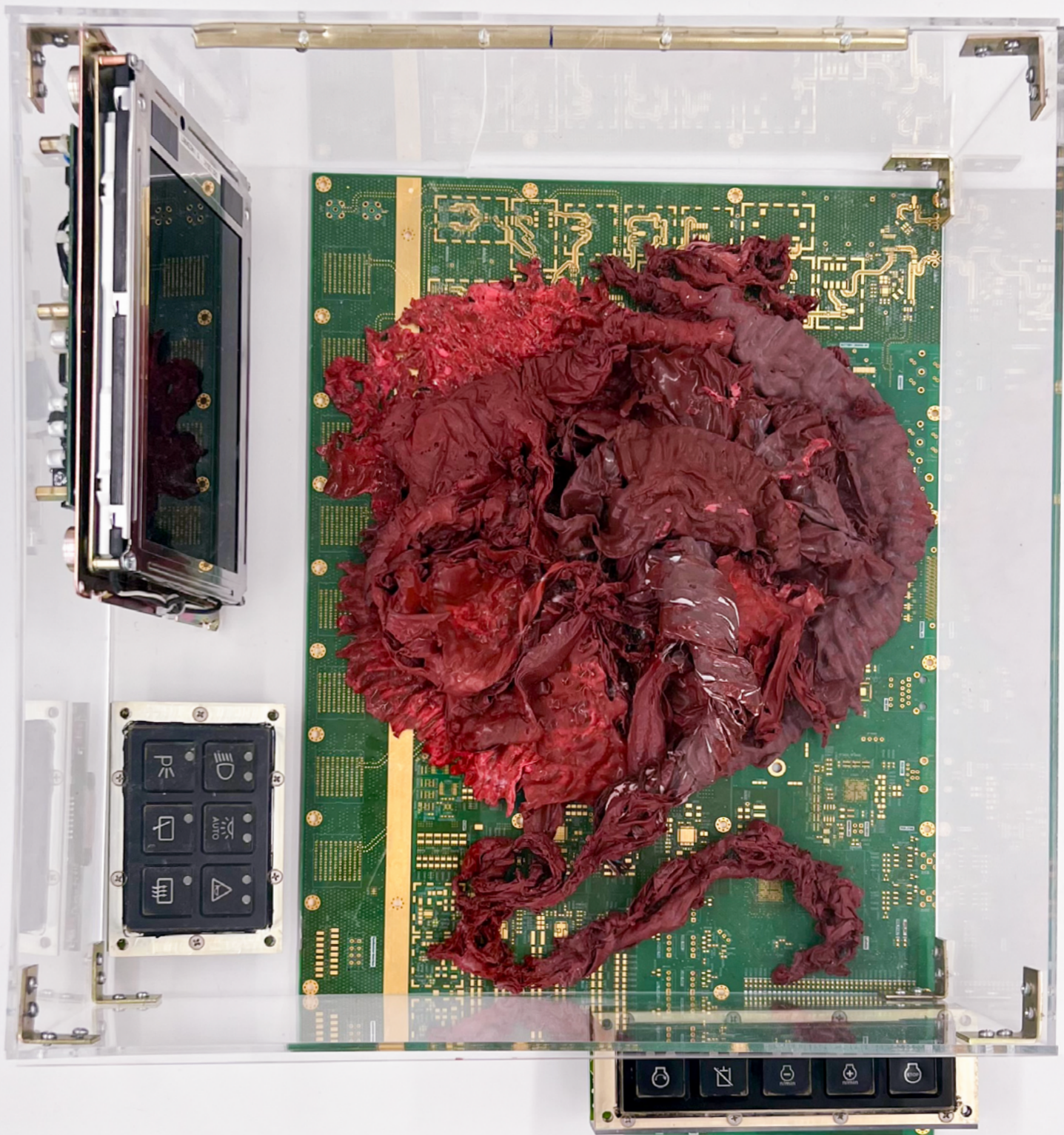
The Egodeath, oil color on canvas, joint compound, gold foil, stitched canvas, 100 x 100 cm





The Egodeath, details highlighting the materiality

oil color on canvas, joint compound, gold foil, stitched canvas,
100 x 100 cm



THE BABY MACHINE 2024-2025

Examines human reproduction as much more than a purely natural phenomenon.

The focus is on critical reflection on the socio-cultural embedding of reproduction, in particular on the concept of motherhood, the associated power relations and ethical-philosophical perspectives.

What might human reproduction look like in an increasingly technologised future and what questions, hopes or dangers arise from this?

The Baby Machine, silicone, printed circuit board, components of a tank control system, 35 x 35 cm



TECH JESUS 2025-ongoing series

God died. Materialisation will pass. What will be our next collective narrative? What role will nature, technology and womanhood play in it?

Tech Jesus, assemblage, objets trouvés, 35.1 x 18.3 cm, 9.5 cm x 13 cm



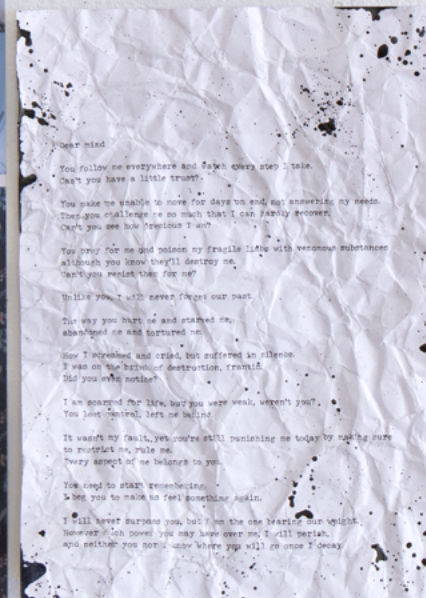
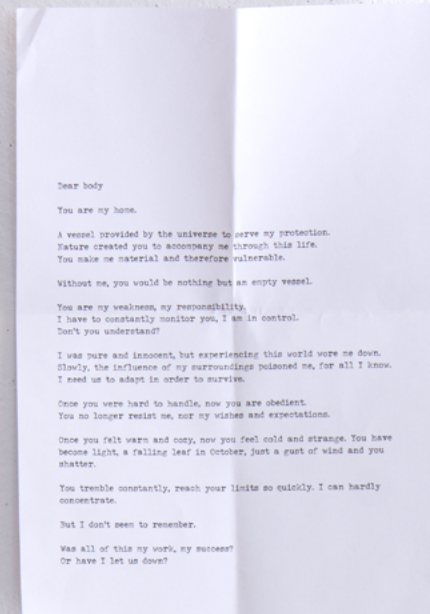
ONCE I DECAY 2023

This project explores the inner turmoil of the human being by separating the body from the mind. In this way, the foundations of human existence are to be examined.

The means to an end is a fictitious but deeply personal dialog in which the two independent parties reflect on each other emotionally.

How does one perceive the other?
What are the consequences of their detachment?

Once I decay, overview of the media arrangement



Dear body

You are my home.

A vessel provided by the universe to serve my protection.
Nature created you to accompany me through this life.
You make me material and therefore vulnerable.

Without me, you would be nothing but an empty vessel.

You are my weakness, my responsibility.
I have to constantly monitor you, I am in control.
Don't you understand?

I was pure and innocent, but experiencing this world wore me down.
Slowly, the influence of my surroundings poisoned me, for all I know.
I need us to adapt in order to survive.

Once you were hard to handle, now you are obedient.
You no longer resist me, nor my wishes and expectations.

Once you felt warm and cozy, now you feel cold and strange. You have
become light, a falling leaf in October, just a gust of wind and you
shatter.

You tremble constantly, reach your limits so quickly. I can hardly
concentrate.

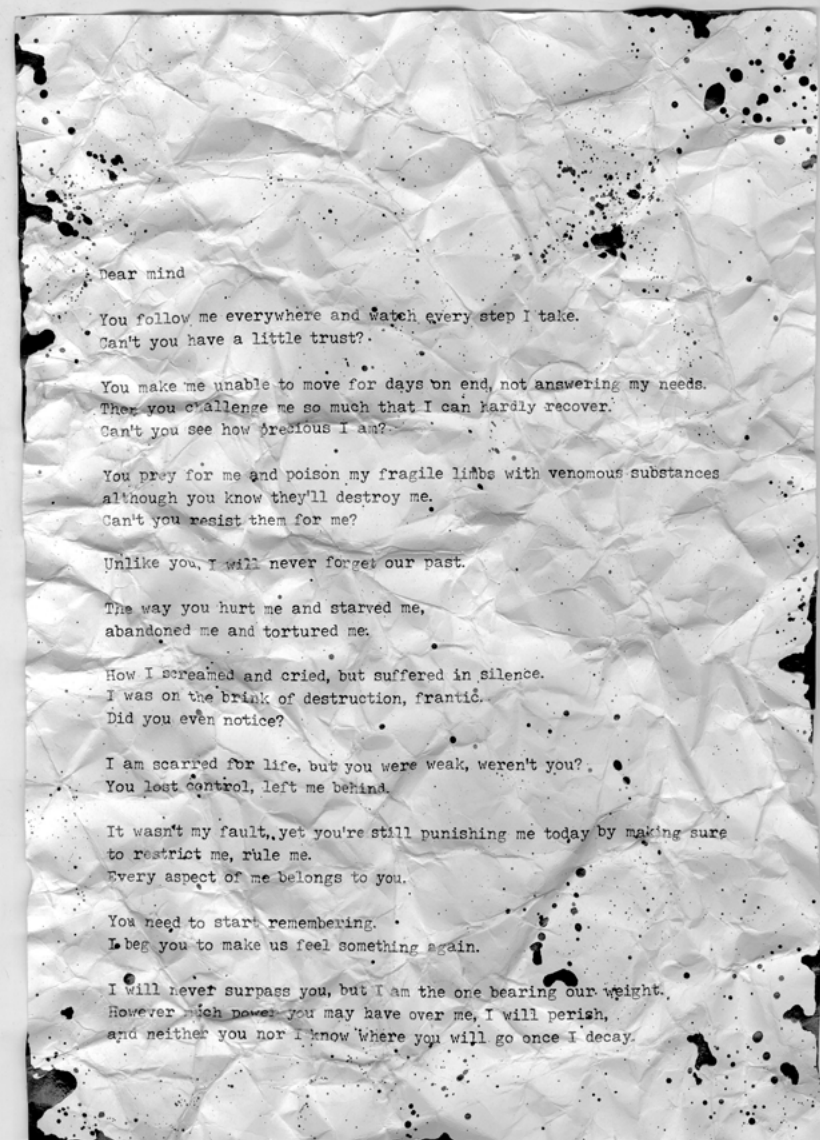
But I don't seem to remember.

Was all of this my work, my success?
Or have I let us down?



Dear body, letter, 21 x 29.7 cm

Home, linoleum print, 14.8 x 21 cm



Dear mind, letter, 21 x 29.7 cm

Self-Stalking, photo series, Canon EOS, 18 photos in total

MALADAPTIVE DAYDREAMING*

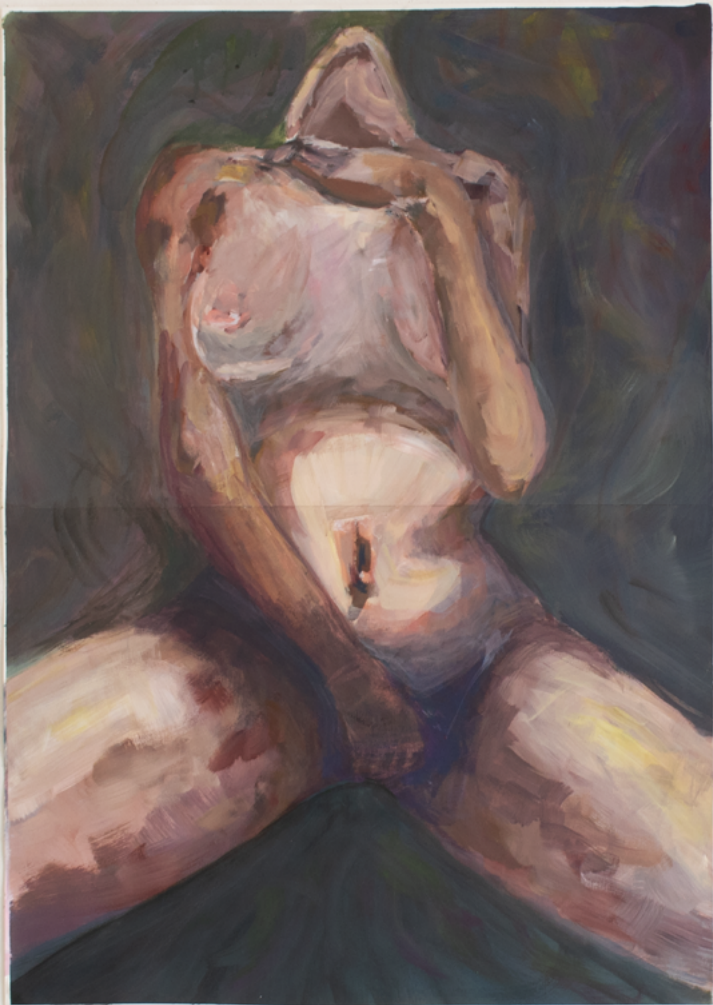
2025-ongoing

*Maladaptive daydreaming (MD) is a psychological phenomenon in which people engage in excessive and compulsive daydreaming. These daydreams are often very vivid, detailed and emotionally intense, almost like an alternative reality.

Maladaptive daydreaming,

acrylic paint on canvas,
120 x 140 cm





LUST 2023

This series captures the feeling of being in a state of utter ecstasy, delineated as lasciviousness.

Lust I, acrylic paint on drawing paper, 59.5 x 84.1 cm

Lust II, acrylic paint on drawing paper, 50 x 70 cm

MOMMY, MOMMY WHY DON'T YOU LIKE ME? 2023-2024

This work reflects upon the relationship between mother and daughter.

Originating from the given term «breakage» and with the intend to have its main emphasis laid on process work rather than the finished product, the topic was derived with the kintsugi philosophy.

The process was divided into three steps following said philosophy; **facing breakage, accepting breakage** and **healing breakage**.

Klick link:
videographic documentation,
canvas process (01:33 min)

Accepting breakage, acrylics on
canvas, 130 x 200 cm



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Curriculum vitae

Born in Chur, Graubünden, lives and works in Chur, Winterthur, Zurich and Lucerne	2002
Gymnasiale Maturität at Bündner Kantonsschule Chur with specialization in visual arts and psychology	2015-2021
Preparatory course at SKDZ (part-time), Schule für Kunst und Design	2022-2024
Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts at HSLU, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences an Arts	2024-2027

Group exhibitions

„Studienreise Berlin“ at SKDZ, Zurich	15.11.2023
„Winti macht Kunst“ at Salzhaus, Winterthur	16.02.2024
„Werkschau“ at SKDZ, Zurich	11.04.2024
„All inclusive festival“ at HSLU, Lucerne	21.01.2025-23.01.2025
SHOUTOUT VOL. 8 at HSLU, Lucerne	02.04.2025-07.04.2025
SHOUTOUT VOL. 10 at HSLU, Lucerne	26.11.2025-04.12.2025