

Press Release

Nina Laaf *MUTUAL*

Opening Thursday, 6 November, 6–9 pm
Exhibition 6 – 29 November 2025

In her work, Nina Laaf explores how forms, colors, and materials encounter one another, how they condition, influence, or elude each other. *MUTUAL* describes this relationship of interaction and autonomy, a delicate web of interdependencies in which everything is connected without ever becoming fully defined.

Laaf is interested in systems, in their internal orders and disruptions, in the fragile balance between stability and movement. In her sculptures and installations, she translates what happens between people into spatial constellations: steel meets lacquer, a cord holds, stretches, connects. Forms encounter one another, touch, keep their distance. A pipe becomes a pedestal that seems to move, a surface turns into a body that suddenly gains depth. Thus, situations of equilibrium emerge in which stability and fragility, hardness and softness become tangible at the same time.

In works such as *Schwalbe*, *Shaped Orchid*, or *False Friends*, this interplay reveals itself as a dialogue of opposites. Organic lines meet precise, industrial-looking surfaces; gloss stands beside matte, curve beside edge. Repetition and variation create subtle shifts, an oscillation between familiarity and the unknown. *MUTUAL* is an open system in which each element gains meaning only in relation to another and yet retains its autonomy. Laaf's sculptures ask how closeness can arise without appropriation, how contact is possible without loss. This sensitivity to the in-between, to states of becoming and fading, runs through her entire practice.

The materials behave toward one another like people: they respond, they hold, they let go. Between surface and space, weight and void, a quiet choreography of dependence and freedom unfolds. In this equilibrium of opposites lies the poetry of *MUTUAL* – a visual translation of how we encounter one another.

Nina Laaf (1977 in Hilden) completed her Master's degree at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe in 2017 under Prof. Harald Klingelhöller. In 2018 she received the Hanna Nagel Prize Karlsruhe, and in 2021 she was a fellow of the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Nina Laaf lives and works in Karlsruhe.

For further information please contact Rita Burster: mail@galerieburster.com

Opening hours: Thursday – Friday 12 – 6 pm, Saturday 12 – 4 pm and by appointment