

CV SOPHIE SCHMIDT

Sophie Schmidt (*1986) works across painting, installation, performance, and text. Her practice departs from a body understood as open, porous, and relational. Inner bodily spaces—such as the abdomen and uterus—recur as key motifs, emerging as threshold zones between reality and dream, and along the boundaries of gender and species. Within these shifting bodily landscapes, questions of desire, reproduction, vulnerability, and power take form.

The prosthesis occupies a central role in her work as an artistic mode of bodily expansion—extending the body into complex relations and entanglements. Painting and drawing serve as both anchor and point of departure, unfolding into spatial and performative constellations. Images, texts, bodies, and spaces interlock, generating process-based and often collective modes of production. Performative activations introduce moments of friction—of stumbling, deceleration, and disruption.

Since 2020, she has been co-founder of the opera collective DIVA (with Samuel Fischer-Glaser, Nikolai Gumbel, and Angela Stiegler), from which the Divenschule emerged in 2023.

Her work has been presented internationally, including in Munich, Leipzig, New York, and Amsterdam. Publishing forms an integral part of her artistic practice. She has received numerous grants and residencies, including from the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht.

EDUCATION

- 2019–2020 MA in Art and Mediation, Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Prof. Stephan Dillemoth
- 2010–2017 Diploma in Fine Arts (Sculpture), Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Prof. Stephan Huber, Meisterschülerin, distinction, 2017
- 2011–2016 State Examination in Art Education, Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Prof. Stephan Dillemoth
- 2014–2015 Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Contextual Painting and Performance Art, Prof. Ashley Hans Scheirl and Prof. Carola Dertnig
- 2008–2011 Studies in Philosophy and Modern German Literature, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

PROJECTS

- 2026 *Frühlings Fun Camp: It's All About Us!* Workshop and performance project with the Opera Collective DIVA (performance, staging, costume, film and music), Münchner Kammerspiele, Munich

Tingeling Entanglements – An Opera on the Tender Biting of Vampires, Cyborgs, and Wild Animals, performative opera project with students of the Academy of Fine Arts Munich, developed within a seminar

- 2024–2025 *Vom Flüggewerden und Fliegenlernen*, public art commission for Haus für Kinder, within the QUIVID public art program of the City of Munich (Department of Public Construction)
- 2023 Founding of the Divenschule, pedagogical format of the opera collective DIVA
- 2020 Co-founding of the opera collective DIVA with Samuel Fischer-Glaser, Nikolai Gumbel, and Angela Stiegler

GRANTS / AWARDS / RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Residency, Fundaziun Nairs – Künstler*innenhaus, Kunsthalle, Kulturlabor, Scuol, Switzerland
Bavarian Studio Program Award, Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts
Nomination for the Feminist Art Prize, IKOB – Museum of Contemporary Art, Eupen, Belgium
- 2023–2025 Studio Grant, City of Munich
- 2022 USA Travel Grant, Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts
NEUSTART KULTUR Grant, Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn
Junge Kunst und Neue Wege Grant, Bayern Innovativ
- 2021 Residency, Taipei Residency Program, Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan
Art Scholarship, German Study Centre in Venice, Venice, Italy
- 2020 Working Grant A1, Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn
- 2019 Nomination, STRABAG Art Award
LINK 2 FUTURE Award, Psychoanalytic Seminar Zurich (PSZ), Zurich, Switzerland
Nomination, ars viva Prize, Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft
- 2019–2021 Studio Grant, Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts
- 2017–2018 Residency, Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2017 Debut Grant, Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts
Project Grant, LfA Förderbank Bayern
Nomination and Audience Award, Kunstclub 13, Munich
- 2016 Examination Award, Stiftung Kunstakademie München

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Mothertongues in Carrybag*, Galerie Sabine Knust, Munich
- 2023 *The World Is Now Licked with the Tongue*, strobe, New York, USA
Brutality of Spring, duo exhibition with Anna Luczak, curated by Magdalena Wiśniowska, GiG Munich, Munich
Ein schweres Herz muss man sich leisten können, Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Friedrichshafen
- 2022 *So weit wir auch fahren, so nah wir auch kommen*, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Leipzig
Sophie Schmidt – Recent Works on Paper, KNUST x KUNZ+, Munich
Luft zu Haut, BEACON, Munich
- 2021 *Bauchvorhangöffnung*, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Berlin
My Mouth Is Full of Tongues, *Schneckenzahnzungen*, *Schlangenziengelei*, *Snails and Snakes*, apartment der kunst, Munich
Venetia Regina, D3082 Woman Art Venice, Domus Civica, Venice, Italy
How Much Venice Water Do You Carry in Your Legs, Still? And How Much Taipei Water Do You Feel in the Fields, Now?, Frontier Gallery No. 9, Treasure Hill Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2020 *Knieberge*, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Leipzig
One Last Glory of the Legs, KNUST x KUNZ+, Munich
Da warf sie ihre Zunge raus, es gab keinen schöneren Vorhang – Eine Oper über die Tragik des menschlichen Körpers, fructa space, Munich
- 2019 *Und so vieles wurde unnötig: Die Beine, die Arme*, nachtspeicher23, Hamburg
It Might Change, Josilda da Conceição Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2017 *Gurkenfresserzählung vor der Urmuttermilchlegung*, Tanja Pol Galerie, Munich
Bauchigungen, Tanja Pol Galerie, Munich

PERFORMANCES / READINGS (SELECTION)

- 2025 *Tränengeweihe*, Performance, Kunsthalle Nairs, Scuol, Switzerland
Im Ziegenzyklus, Performance, IKOB – Museum of Contemporary Art, Eupen, Belgium
- 2024 Reading: Sophie Schmidt with Judith Neunhäuserer, Galleria Doris Ghetta, Ortisei, Italy
- 2023 *Die seitliche Intelligenz der Diva – Im Spangenglobus*, opera performance by the opera collective DIVA, Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany

Reading: *meine drei lyrischen ichs*, 32nd edition – with Kilic, Thiessen, Mainka and Schmidt, Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany

Tingeling Entanglements, Performance, strobe, New York, USA

- 2022 *Cyborgprozession*, Performance in cooperation with students of the Department of Gender Studies in Architecture, Technical University of Munich, Germany
- Shipping Out*, talk and performative film screening with Alexander Kluge and the opera collective DIVA, KNUST KUNZ Gallery Editions, Munich, Germany
- Divella 2022*, Performance and film premiere of the opera collective DIVA, German Study Centre in Venice, Venice, Italy
- 2021 *In the Hands of the Ptarmigan – Schneehuhnleuchten in Knokke*, exhibition and performance, part 1, KNUST KUNZ Belgium, Knokke-Heist, Belgium
- In the Wings of the Ptarmigan – Schneehuhnleuchten in Brussels*, Performance, part 2, Brussels, Belgium
- Moby Dick in Köln*, Performance as part of Art Cologne 2021, Cologne, Germany
- 2020 *Die Beschneidung des Vesuvs – eine Tischung*, opera performance with the opera collective DIVA, as part of the exhibition “K 2020: This House Is Not a Home,” Lothringer 13 Halle, Munich, Germany
- Rooms of Now #5*, Performance in cooperation with Vleeshal, Middelburg, The Netherlands
- 2019 *Wet Lounge #1*, lecture-performance, TENT, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Nasenlochnarben and Zonenglühen in Between*, Performance, Upominki, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2018 *Learning to Walk: Künstliche Intelligenz und Körper*, Performance, Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany
- Nasenlochnarben and Zonenglühen*, Performance, Chalton Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2016 *Mückengymnastik*, Lecture-performance, Cabaret Voltaire, Manifesta 11, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2015 *Uncanny Bodies – Imagetanz*, Performance, brut Wien – Künstlerhaus am Karlsplatz, Vienna, Austria
- Lungenfüßler*, Performance, Anatomical Theatre, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2025 *mit Träumen*, Kunsthalle Nairs, Scuol, Switzerland
Jahresgaben, Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany
Echoes and Entrances, BMW Foundation, Munich, Germany
Exhibition of the Feminist Art Prize, IKOB – Museum of Contemporary Art,
Eupen, Belgium
- 2024 *Schatten auf Schnee*, Galleria Doris Ghetta, Ortisei, Italy
- 2023 *The Color of Pomegranates*, MAMOTH, London, United Kingdom
Rosa Immergrün – Zeitgenössische Kunst und lyrische Zeitreise, DG
Kunstraum, Munich, Germany
- 2022 *Maison d'artistes*, Opernkollektiv DIVA & François Heitsch, Saint-Raphaël,
France
Art Düsseldorf 2022, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Düsseldorf, Germany
Förderpreise der Landeshauptstadt München 2022, Lothringer 13 Halle,
Munich, Germany
- 2021 Art Cologne 2021, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Cologne, Germany
Art Cologne 2021, Galerie Sabine Knust, Cologne, Germany
- 2020 *A Quest for Lasting Values*, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Leipzig, Germany
K 60, Wilhelm Hallen, Berlin, Germany
Moments of Clarity Are So Rare – Artists of the Gallery and Friends, Galerie
Tobias Naehring, Leipzig, Germany

TEACHING / LECTURES / WORKSHOPS (SELECTION)

- 2026 Research Associate, Chair of Art Education, Academy of Fine Arts Munich,
DE
- 2025/2026 Teaching Assignment: *Tingeling Entanglements – An Opera on the Tender
Biting of Vampires, Cyborgs, and Wild Animals* (Performance and Play),
Chair of “Art Education | Art and its Didactics,” Academy of Fine Arts
Munich, DE
- Teaching Assignment: *Haarige Angelegenheiten* (Basic Qualification Course),
Chair of “Art Education | Art and its Didactics,” Academy of Fine Arts
Munich, DE
- 2022/2023 Teaching Assignment: *transform – Continuing Education for Art Teachers:
Revalidating the Sensory in Art Education*, with Dr. Karin Hutflötz, Academy
of Fine Arts Munich, DE

- 2022 Teaching Assignment: *Cyborg Architecture as Utopian Bodies*,
Department of Gender Studies in Architecture, Technical University of
Munich, DE
- 2021/2022 Lecture-performance: *Prostheses as Social Intelligences*,
AI in Flux – International Conference on the History of Artificial Intelligence,
Deutsches Museum, Munich, DE
- 2020/2021 Guest Lecture and Workshop in the class of Prof. Susanne Kühn,
Academy of Fine Arts Nuremberg, DE
- 2018 Guest Lecture and Performance, Conference: *Lektüre. Bilder vom Lesen – Vom
Lesen der Bilder*, Evangelische Akademie Tutzing, Tutzing, DE

PUBLICATIONS AND ARTIST BOOKS (SELECTION)

- 2024 Artist Booklet: *Sophie Schmidt: Alaska, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York*,
Lubok Verlag, Leipzig, DE
- 2023 Artist Booklet (Libretto): *Ein schweres Herz muss man sich leisten können*,
edited by Hannah Eckstein, Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, DE
- 2022 Monograph: *How Much Venice Water Do You Carry in Your Legs, Still? How
Much Taipei Water Do You Feel in the Fields, Now?*,
Hammann von Mier Verlag, Munich, DE
- 2021 Artist Book: *Nein, meine Erinnerungen kompostieren nicht. 61 Karten von 61
Tagen in Taipeh*, Hammann von Mier Verlag & Galerie Tobias Naehring
- 2020 Monograph: *Über die Tragik des menschlichen Körpers – Eine Oper in fünf
Akten*, Hammann von Mier Verlag, Munich, DE
- Contribution: Sophie Schmidt / Rainer Wenrich,
“Neukombinatoriken des menschlichen Körpers,” in *Körperkreativitäten.
Gesellschaftliche Aushandlungen mit dem menschlichen Körper*,
edited by Angela Treiber and Rainer Wenrich, transcript Verlag
- 2019 Sophia Mainka and Sophie Schmidt,
“Nachrichten im Künstlerinnenprekariat,” blog contribution, published by
Wepsert Crew (Gepflegte Hysterie & feministischer Diskurs)
- 2017 Monograph: *Nur kurz zur Übersicht*,
published on the occasion of the Debutant Exhibition 2017, Lothringer 13
Halle, Munich, DE
- 2016 Artist Book: *Anmerkungen zu den Körperfunktionen – Vom Lungenfüßler zum
Tausendlünger*, self-published