



Gabriela Jolowicz
Sentimental Value

Gabriela Jolowicz: Sentimental Value

By Danielle Cruz

In *Sentimental Value*, we see detailed autobiographical scenes of Gabriela Jolowicz's experiences in Germany and England paired with objects of daily life. Her woodcut prints emulate photographs, capture personal moments, and meld contemporary aesthetics with a traditional medium. It is this unique pairing that give Jolowicz's work intriguing contradictions both aesthetically and materially.

Patterns, perspectives and transparencies exquisitely compose the surroundings with characters of naive silhouettes, and objects such as books, bottles, boats, statues, animals, musical instruments and domestic furniture. Jolowicz's imagery contains reflections on her past, pulled from memories, photographs, illustrations, images found on the Internet, and her own imagination. The series tells the story of the artist's life, including her coming and goings as a teenager and student in Leipzig where we find bars, people dancing, drinking, cigarettes, musical instruments, tattoos and antiquated technology. Other scenes reflect the artist life in the present day, where meetings of friends with children or other family memories are the focus.

This is the case of "Teller" (2018) where the artist celebrates having found a Strohlblumenmuster dish in Poland that reminds her of her grandmother's crockery. The image is a collage, combining happy memories of this trip with memories of her parents camping in Helsinki.

In this exhibition the artist presents seven works as a retrospective, which highlights "Vik Hill" (2016) for its great level of detail in patterns and perspective. "Houseboat" (2016) plays with different textures, creating a variety of landscapes in the same environment, and "Disorganiser" (2015) contains an impressive framework of environments where the perspectives between characters and objects lead us to question the identity of the protagonists and content of their stories.

Jolowicz also presents some of the pieces that compose the "Megabillig II" series, a work in progress that compliments her first "Megabillig" series of woodcuts. Executed in a small format, the series is a collection of snapshots of the artist's daily life and her memories with family and friends. When both series are juxtaposed, the viewer can perceive the technical evolution of Jolowicz's pieces and gain a broad understanding of her lived experience.



Gabriela Jolowicz's work maintains a consistent voice throughout this evolution. With the passage of time, her scenes have become more imaginary and surreal, combining the everyday objects with a clever game of patterns and perspective. Jolowicz's woodcuts bring with them an important reflection on the oldest technique of reproduction of images and its uses. While many of the images depict ephemeral moments of her personal history, carving into the wood is a decisive act and requires rigorous planning. This planning is evident in the complexity that her works acquire over time, pushing the boundaries with meticulously worked environments that occupy almost the entire board.

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Danielle Cruz holds a MFA in Philosophy and Publishing. She's also the chief-editor of [elemmental](#), magazine.

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Sentimental Value

March 7 - April 17, 2019

ARTIST STATEMENT

The exhibition *Sentimental Value* is divided into two parts: a retrospective shows various larger prints from recent years, and my current project *Megabillig 2*. For the latter I am conceptually repeating a project from 2007, where I produced 24 woodcuts in rapid succession within a few months. As the small format is comparatively quickly executed, it allows me to react to consecutive events almost like giving a day-to-day pictorial report.

In contrast to these small works, my larger woodcuts reflect many parallel observations and narratives rather than one central idea: the carpet of a pub in England meets an antique bureau from my parents' house, airplanes from Tegel Airport fly overhead and the whole set-up is superimposed by a scene of friends meeting in our kitchen.

All of my woodcut prints have been generated from daily observations. Consequently, they include a lot of information about me living in Germany and England and places I have traveled to: they hold sentimental value.

--- Gabriel Jolowicz, 2019

BIOGRAPHY

Gabriela Jolowicz is a woodcut artist from Germany. She completed her diploma and post-graduate studies at the Academy of Visual Arts, Leipzig. Her works have been shown in numerous international group and solo exhibitions. Since 2016 she is a substitute professor for printmaking at the HGB in Leipzig and also teaches a course at the HfK Bremen in summer 2019. Currently she has a solo show at the Galerie Hübner and Hübner in Frankfurt am Main (Germany), and – opening on March 7th – at the Odd Gallery in Dawson City (Canada). Furthermore, the August Macke Haus in Bonn (Germany) hosts a group show from April 12th – September 15th showing Expressionist Woodcuts and Linocuts from the Collection in Dialogue with contemporary artists. She lives and works in Berlin.

Images: (Front) *Teller*, 2018, woodcut, 49 x 49cm
(Inside) *Shower*, 2018, woodcut, 95 x 95cm

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GALLERY

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