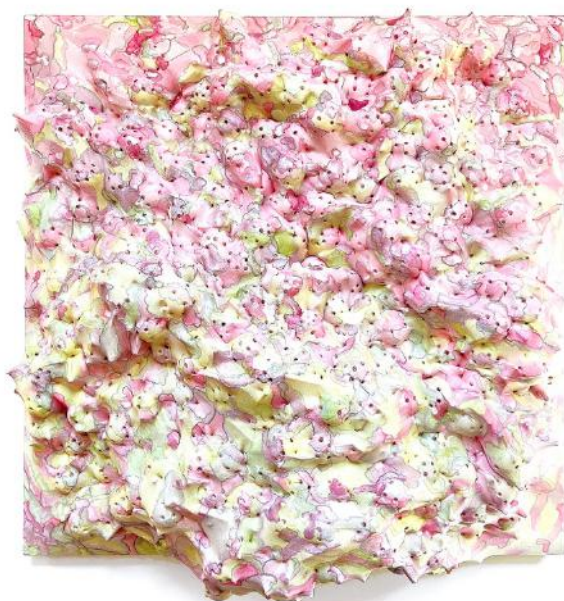


**PRICKED AND BROKEN**

a solo exhibition by Julia von Eichel



**Stained**, 2022, ink on silk with mixed media, 28 x 28 x 9 in

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On May 7, Visitor Center will unveil *Pricked and Broken*, a solo exhibition by Julia von Eichel that will remain on view through June 11. The artist will present a series of luminous wall sculptures and paintings inspired by the emotions she experienced while quarantined in Upstate New York.

*Pricked and Broken* documents a transition in von Eichel's practice: the dynamic, masculine bursting forms in her earlier monochromatic free-standing sculptures have been wrangled into exuberant acid-hued wall reliefs; these then create a conversation with delicate, kinetic, jewel-toned oil pastels on mylar and paper.

The artist's former approach - solely allowing natural elements, such as shifting lights and shadows, to alter the perspective of her pieces - has been augmented by introducing color as a new type of interference to visually and metaphorically manipulate her technique. In her works on view at Visitor Center, the medium of paint appears unbound from its conventional usage, becoming a sculpting element and an outlet to differentiate the complex interplay between the natural world and the artist's hand.

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Von Eichel's approach to her work is totally spontaneous and unplanned. When asked to elaborate on the title of the exhibition she explains : "I'm not the kind of artist who goes into making my work with a theme in mind, or something particular I want to say. I just make the work. And then as it evolves, I find that it often communicates something that's going on inside me—an outward expression of my inner feelings. Over the years, I've been pulled in a lot of emotional directions, as everyone has on some level, and so many times I feel pulled, pricked, broken, tangled...I look at these and think of them as my way of speaking about that."

Von Eichel's idiosyncratic sculptures appear to be meticulous, obsessively structured networks. The works evoke a range of metaphors for life itself, from memento mori to the experience of birth: the tension and dynamism of life (rendered with spikes and atom-like Wiffle balls) breaks through the smothering, all-enveloping shroud of death (created by silk coated with gesso).

These sculptures are complemented by a series of gestural and luscious oil pastels on mylar, which depict clusters of branched, tubular filaments merging with kinetic networks of swirls that almost vibrate when hit by light. By using her fingers to glide colors across the drawings' surfaces, the artist concocts a lyrical and pulsating dance of hues and light.

The artist's intuitive expression of emotions is juxtaposed against the precise and meticulous nature of her pieces. Ultimately, she seeks to create a complex interplay between the natural and the imaginary world. Through the collision between tension and ease, the artist envisions narratives of organic lifeforms trying to break free, creating a compelling dialogue that considers humans and the natural world. In her words: "My works are the outward picture of my emotion; they're a snapshot of my heart."

*Pricked and Broken*, a solo exhibition by Julia von Eichel

on view May 7th - June 11, 2022

Opening reception: Saturday May 7 from 4-7 pm

Press Preview: Saturday May 7, from 3-4 pm

at VISITOR CENTER, 233 Liberty street, Newburgh NY

#### ABOUT JULIA VON EICHEL

Julia von Eichel's work is concerned with the tension between chaos and control. Her process is highly focused from initial creation to the final piece. Furthermore, the juxtaposition of precision and serendipitous expression is constantly at play.

Her sculptures and drawings are notably meticulous. Upon closer examination, the pieces are closely and obsessively structured networks. Ultimately, she seeks to create a complex interplay between the natural world and the world of the artist's hand.

Von Eichel was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Currently, she is based in Brooklyn. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the United States. Also, her work is held in public and private collections worldwide.





**Oh Happy Dayh Happy Day!, 2020, ink, vinyl acrylic on silk, plastic, wood, thread  
47 X 54 X 18.5 inches (full size and detail)**



**Thistle, 2021, oil pastel on paper 22 x 30 in**



**Tunnel, 2022, oil pastel on mylar, 18.5 x 24.5 in**





**Cutting, 2022, oil pastel on paper, 30 x 22 in**



**Stepping Out My Little Bird, 2016, oil pastel and graphite on mylar, 32 x 34.5 in**

**VISITOR  
CENTER**



**Muscle Wind, 2022, oil pastel and graphite on paper, 60 x 40 in**



**Bite, 2020, Ink on silk with mixed media, 48x42x18 in**



# VISITOR CENTER



Hummingbird, 2012, watercolor on paper  
30 x 22in



Flying, 2016, Oil pastel and graphite on mylar,  
36 X 39 in

## ABOUT VISITOR CENTER

VISITOR CENTER is a contemporary art gallery that features artists of the Hudson Valley and beyond who work in painting, sculpture, mixed media, sound, video, and virtual reality. Located in Newburgh, NY, it occupies 2,000 square feet on the ground level of the US workshop of Hysteric Glamour, an iconic Japanese streetwear company. VISITOR CENTER is dedicated to supporting artists in the advancement of their practices and careers through a supportive community and curated exhibitions. VISITOR CENTER is run by Eva Zanardi through her creative advisory firm EZARTCONSULTINGNYC LLC. Eva is a professional art advisor and writer who builds and manages collections for international estates, foundations, and individual collectors. VISITOR CENTER is open Saturdays from 1-5 pm, and Thursday & Friday from 1-5 pm by appointment. For press inquiries, please contact [Attila.King@visitorcenter.space](mailto:Attila.King@visitorcenter.space) or 917-703-9262. For other inquiries, please contact the gallery at [Attila.King@visitorcenter.space](mailto:Attila.King@visitorcenter.space)

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# VISITOR CENTER

## ABOUT NEWBURGH

Newburgh—a jewel in the rough of a city located 60 miles north of Manhattan—has long been hailed as the new Brooklyn or Williamsburg, perhaps due to its demographic diversity or the fact that it boasts the largest historic district outside of New York City. As Julie Laskin perfectly noted in her December 2020 New York Times feature: "Newburgh doesn't just have good bones—it is magnificent." But Newburgh's narrative is much more layered than that: a city of 28,000 in Orange County has now become a haven for artists, designers, architects, artisans, and all kinds of creative individuals.

How to get to Newburgh from Manhattan (approx. 1 hour and 30 min): [Driving directions](#) are linked here. [Metro-North Trains](#) stop at the Beacon station, located just across the Hudson River from Newburgh. The Newburgh side ferry connects commuters to the station. The train runs south to Manhattan and north to Albany. Taxis are available at Beacon's train station; Uber and Lyft also offer rides across the Hudson River (approx. 15-minute ride).

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