



Mai Gribba

Surface as a Threshold

Artist Statement

My work begins with a sense of unease about what appears complete.

Familiar forms—flowers, fruit, animal fragments, or human bodies—draw us in through their surface. They suggest coherence and stability, yet often feel too smooth, too resolved.

Working with ceramics and, increasingly, with materials such as wood, paper, and plaster, I explore this tension through cutting, layering, repainting, gilding, or by following structures inherent in the material. Surfaces become fragile boundaries—constructed, unstable, and open to doubt.

I am interested in the moment when appearance begins to shift—when attraction turns into uncertainty, and beauty no longer reassures but becomes exposed.

I do not aim to resolve this tension.

I try to hold open a space in which what we see becomes uncertain—and therefore visible again.



Rose in Wartime – What Remains

Ceramic, manganese oxide, glaze

22 × 28 × 7 cm

2025



Outside and Inside

Ceramic, manganese oxide, glaze
12 × 45 × 30 cm
2023-2025





Post-Truth Still Life

Ceramic, manganese oxide, glaze

39 × 22 × 19 cm

2018





Artificially Enhanced Reality

Ceramic, manganese oxide, glaze, porcelain paints

46 × 33 × 7 cm

2020





Illusion of Longevity

Ceramic, copper oxide, glaze

65 × 55 × 30 cm

2025





Sic transit gloria mundi (Thus passes the glory of the world)

Ceramic, glaze, gold leaf

35 × 47 × 24 cm

2023





Trophy of a "Strong Man"

Ceramic, slipware, glaze, marble

33 × 50 × 25 cm

2022





Line of Tension

Wood
28 × 21 × 10 cm
2026



Biography

Mai Gribba is an artist working primarily with ceramics, and more recently with materials such as wood, paper, and plaster.

Her work draws on an academic and professional background at the intersection of technology, economics, and politics, exploring questions of perception, value, and constructed reality.

At the age of ten, she began studying Ikebana (Ohara School) in Japan, pursued this practice for over ten years, and obtained a teaching qualification. This early engagement with form, structure, and spatial composition continues to shape her artistic work.

In Germany, she received training in ceramics from product designer Marlies Conen and in sculpture in various materials from artist Gudrun Schuster.

Mai Gribba lives and works in the greater Düsseldorf area, Germany.

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Email: gribba@gmx.de