



Susanna Bauer

Text by Valentina De Pasca

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- A monograph of works by German-born artist Susanna Bauer

This monograph on Susanna Bauer presents the artist's work to an international audience for the first time in book form. The essential ingredients of Bauer's artistic production are the ephemeral natural elements that she encounters during walks and hikes in the South-West of the UK where she lives and works. They are leaves, stones, twigs... elements that become the heart of more elaborate creations rendered with crochet – sometimes used conventionally as a decoration, other times as a sculptural means of communication. Bauer's leaves are airy sculptures in which the artist pursues a balance between strength and fragility. Nature becomes a metaphor for humanity: the artfully interwoven threads remind us that we are all part of a vaster network and therefore generators of connections. But it also stands for life: viewing these works it is impossible not to reflect on the confluences of beauty and vulnerability, resistance and transformation.

The theme of the relationship between art and nature, and the ensuing interconnections, are investigated both through Bauer's original work and in an introductory essay that analyses her œuvre within the broader context of the history of art.

Susanna Bauer is a visual artist. She studied landscape architecture at the Technical University of Munich. For 17 years, she worked as a modelmaker for advertising, film and artists. She later continued her studies at the Camberwell College of Art, London. Though she learned the art of crocheting as a child in Germany, it was in England that she glimpsed the potential of combining this skill with her love of nature. When she met her partner, the artist Paul Fry, she began to discover the territory of Cornwall, which kindled her memories of a childhood spent close to nature. After many years travelling between Cornwall and London and following the birth of her son, she chose to permanently relocate to the former. Her work has appeared in many newspapers, including the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, and *Politiken*; and articles have been written about her in such high-profile magazines as *Flow International*, *American Craft*, *Sculpture*, and *Io Donna*.

Valentina De Pasca is an art historian and publishing professional. She is the author, among others, of the introductory essay *Maria Lai. I luoghi dell'arte a portata di mano* (5 Continents Editions, 2021), and the volume, produced in collaboration with Alessandra Falconi, *Atelier inclusivi con l'Art Brut. Percorsi per la scuola primaria* (Edizioni Centro Studi Erickson, 2021).

