

FINJA SANDER

Finja Sander, born in 1996 in Hildesheim (Germany), lives and works in Berlin. She completed her Fine Arts studies at the Berlin University of the Arts in the classes of Ursula Neugebauer and Valérie Favre, graduating in 2022 as a Meisterschülerin. In 2023, she received the UdK Berlin Art Award. In 2025, she was awarded the Artheon Art Prize for her performative series *Für Morgen*. In 2026, she received the Art Prize of the City of Aschaffenburg.

“With machines and muscle power,” Sander investigates the social structures and historical sediments through which communities and collective identities are constituted. Central to her work are questions of verticality and horizontality — not only as physical manifestations, but as social and political principles. Rather than treating these models as fixed opposites, Sander explores their overlap and instability through photography, sculpture, and performance. Her works often respond to existing architectures and sites, treating them as active carriers of memory, power, and social relations.

Her research and performative engagements with forms of remembrance culture — from Ernst Barlach’s memorial *Der Schwebende* (1927) and the German mountain films of the 1920s and 1930s to contemporary references from popular culture, serve as an entry point into broader questions of collective imagination, historical continuity, and the organization of power.

SELECTED SOLOSHOWS

2027 Kein Ende in Sicht, Künstlerzeche Herne (GER) - upcoming
2026 Will groß sein, Will siegen, at Kunstverein Wilhelmshöhe, Ettlingen (GER)
2025 Wovon träumt der Stein, wovon die Wand?, with Tatjana Stürmer, Hospitalhof, Stuttgart (GER)
2025 Barlach X Sander, in cooperation with the Barlach Museum Güstrow, galerie burster, Berlin (GER)
2024 In einem Land vor unserer Zeit, Kunstverein Augsburg (GER)
2023 FELSENFEST, galerie burster during Art Week, Berlin (GER)

PERFORMANCES

2026 Stufe Null, public, collective Performance in Aschaffenburg (GER)
2025 Für Morgen_standort_14, IG-Farben-Haus, Frankfurt a.M. (GER)
2024 Für Morgen_standort_13, Villa Hügel, Essen (GER)
2024 Performance 40, Arco Madrid Artfair, Gallery Jochen Hempel (ESP)
2023 Für Morgen_standort_01-12 (ongoing)
2022 Performance 31, Auktionshaus Grisebach, Berlin (GER)
2021 Performance 27, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (GER)
2021 Performance 26, Museum für Fotografie, Berlin (GER)
2020 Performance 24, Studio 1 Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin (GER)
2019 Performance 14, C/O Museum, Berlin (GER)

GRANTS / RESIDENCIES

2026 Residency, Meet Factory, Prague (CZ)
2026 Artprize of the Kunsthalle Jesuitenkirche, Aschaffenburg (recipient)
2026 Residency, Kunsthalle Jesuitenkirche, Aschaffenburg (GER)
2025 Artheon Art Award (recipient)
2025 Emerging Artist Award of the Rainer Wild Stiftung (nominee)
2025 Residency + group grant, Schloss Wiepersdorf, Brandenburg (GER)
2024 Residency Kunstverein Augsburg, Augsburg (GER)
2023 Residency Gmünder Kunstverein, Schwäbisch Gmünd (GER)
2023 UdK Berlin Art Award (recipient)
2022 Award Junge Kunst, Kommunale Galerie Reinickendorf (nominee)

SELECTED GROUPSHOWS

2026 Freeze:Memory, Calciu Space, Scantea +, Bucharest (RO)
2026 Erinnern und Vergessen in der Kunst, Städtische Wessenberg Galerie, Konstanz (GER)
2026 Stufen - Erklimmen, Wachsen, Kunsthalle Jesuitenkirche, Aschaffenburg (GER)
2025 People I know, Groupshow, LABS Gallery, Bologna (IT)
2025 Kommunikation und Haltung, Galerie see you next tuesday, Basel (CH)
2025 Stoff, Textil und der weibliche Akt II, Villa Schöningen, Potsdam (GER)
2024 Interface, international section, Lille Art Up Fair, Lille, France (FR)
2024 Arco Madrid, Groupshow, Jochen Hempel Gallery (ESP)
2023 UdK Berlin Art Award, galerie burster, Berlin (GER)
2021 Nothing ever happened [yet], Museum für Fotografie, Berlin (GER)



ARCHIVE OF VERTICALITY (2026)

Steel beams, stainless steel ball chain (2 mm),
fasteners, laminated print
Dimensions variable

Installation view
Bück dich hoch, 2026
3CA Studios, Berlin



WILL GROSS SEIN, WILL SIEGEN (2026)

15 construction props, ratchet strap,
polystyrene boards
Dimensions variable

Installationviews
Will groß sein, will siegen
Kunstverein Wilhelmshöhe, Ettlingen, 2026



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LASTENVERSCHIEBUNG (2026)

41 rounded spruce poles (each 300 cm)
ratchet strap
Dimensions variable

First visualization
for the sculptural series
Studio, MeetFactory, Prague







BIS AUF WEITERES (2026)

Square steel tubing, colored stone render,
shrink wrap, brass plaque, ratchet strap
Dimensions variable

Installation view
Ehrenpreissaal (Hall of Honor)
Offizierskasino Kramnitz, Potsdam





PASSIV AGRESSIV [SET UP] (2023)

glass wreath, wheelbarrow structure, aluminum
tub, rubber wheel, metal attachments, foil
385 x 320 x 60 cm



PASSIV AGRESSIV XIV (2024)

Glass wreath, drywall lift
stainless steel panel
Dimensions variable



PASSIV AGRESSIV XII (2024)

Carrying frame, glass wreath,
stainless steel Euro pallet
78 x 70 x 28 cm



PASSIV AGRESSIV XII (2024)

Carrying frame, glass wreath,
stainless steel Euro pallet
78 x 70 x 28 cm

performatively activated
Group show ACUD Galerie, Berlin, 2025





TRANSPORTBOX MIT SCHÜRFWUNDE I-III (2024)

Eurobox with scratches (caused by glass wreath),
oil mixture, gold leaf
80 x 60 x 11 cm



PASSIV AGRESSIV, RECONFIGURATED (2024)
TRANSPORTBOX MIT SCHÜRFWUNDE IV (2024)
SCHUTZWALL (2024)

Installationview
Groupshow: People I know, 2025
LABS Gallery, Bologna (IT)







PASSIV AGRESSIV III (2023)

glass wreath, hand truck
142 x 60 x 114 cm













