

# Ann-Kathrin Müller

Die Phaläne

June 21 - August 4, 2018



Exhibition view, Ann-Kathrin Müller, 2018

Judith Engel: Imago

For a long time, it has been speculated what actually happens inside the so-called “larval bag” during the process of pupation. It is a surprising fact that the metamorphosis requires an almost complete liquefaction of the phenotype. However, a discovery even more fascinating has been made: For over one century, the creation of the cocoon had been confused with the isolation of the individual insect. “In contrast”, it is saying in current studies, “the larva changes to imago during a constant interchange of information it is receiving as a veil of signals through vibrations, oscillation of light and temperature conditions.” This sensitive system of communication would lead to different developments of the butterflies such as a leathery, protective skin, a camouflage pattern of the wings, or mutations of the senses. At times, this phase could endure years according to an entomologist: The easiest way to imagine this process would be to dream about reality itself as a sweeping metamorphosis.



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