

## **Claudia Schmitz-Esser**

Born in 1983 in Rum/Austria.

Winner of the Austrian National Youth Photography Award in 2000.

Worked for Thomas Murauer Photography, Innsbruck/Austria from 1998 to 2001.

Studied Psychology at the Universities of Innsbruck and Rome from 2002 to 2008.

Since 2008, studied theater and literature at the LMU University Munich/Germany.

Cofounded "Die Rausfrauen", a collective working with textiles and yarn and supporting a special interest in perception and occupation of space, and gender roles.

Claudia Schmitz-Esser lives and works in Munich/Germany and Durham NC/USA.

**'Inked Yarn Woodcut Prints'** is an exhibition of original new Artist Proof prints hand printed and signed by the artist and representing the first prints of a very limited edition of 9 prints, 22" x 30", oil based ink on acid free paper, framed. There will be one artist proof of each woodcut available at this exhibition

In the Inked Yarn woodcut series, Claudia Schmitz-Esser manipulates and dips yarn shapes into ink and applies the inked yarn to large woodblocks to create abstract shapes textures and patterns. Schmitz-Esser then carves out the patterns that remain on the woodblock to make her beguiling prints.

She says: *"These very hard black and white ink prints originated in the soft trace of a tiny rolling ball of yarn, went through a process of working solid wood with metal tools, and finally, by forceful hand-printing, are carried by a soft and flexible sheet of beautiful paper."*

For Esser, these works portray the balance between weak and strong, between the unyielding and the adaptable. She goes on to say: *"Combining hard and soft materials has always held a strong fascination for me - to see how one depends on the other and how something weak can create something strong and something hard can become flexible."*

In the "Inked Yarn" print series, I dipped my yarn balls into the ink and rolled and slammed them across the giant woodblock. I carve out the patterns that remain on the woodblock and make my prints out of it. These very hard black and white ink prints originated in the soft trace of a tiny rolling ball of yarn, went through a process of working solid wood with metal tools, and finally, by forceful hand printing, are carried by a soft and flexible sheet of beautiful paper. To me, they are a constant reminder of the steadily interchanging world. That is what I like about this kind of work.