

# ELIZA BALLESTEROS



Eliza Ballesteros's expansive stagings challenge exhibition viewers: her works do not communicate striking or strident messages, but rather offer complex realms of experience that refer associatively to our lifeworld and social milieu. These "staged realities," as Ballesteros calls her installations, deliberately touch upon a nerve and enable viewers to experience matters and circumstances from unaccustomed perspectives. In her installations, Ballesteros challenges patriarchal power structures, heteronormative role models and social classifications. She dares to "look back into the future" in order to question traditional social systems in the here and now.



10N Brussels  
10 Avenue Napoléon  
1180 Brussels  
Belgium

10N Brussels/Menorca  
Jérôme Nicod  
Founder and Director  
+32 479 60 00 50



IG : @10N\_Brussels  
E : 10nbrussels@gmail.com  
W : www.10n.brussels



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**VEIL/VEAL, 2022**  
hand-dyed velvet, hooks, pigments  
140 x 1200 cm

9.000 € VAT incl.

In the exhibition BUTCHER'S COIN, commissioned by Westfälischer Kunstverein, Ballesteros taps into the theme of the domestication of animals, which repeatedly serves her as a foil to explore socio-cultural narratives and interpretive sovereignties. To do this, she couples objects from different contexts – the slaughterhouse and the BDSM studio – in order to place them in new relationships. Each of these objects resonates with a key trope in Ballesteros's work: desire. On a formal level, it is conveyed through her choice of materials. Whether it be the red fabric of the velvet curtain, VEIL/VEAL, the exquisitely-crafted wood of HACK KLOTZ and HACK KLOTZ [poupée], or the smooth surfaces of TREICHEL I-III, they all share the desire to be experienced haptically. They correspond to other objects made of latex, leather and steel, which can be read variously as an association to forms of pleasure. Harnessed in these objects, the animation of human drives is cogently manifested; these drives – completely in the Hegelian sense – develop commensurately into colossal desire and culminate in fetish.

Text found on [westfaelischer-kunstverein.de](http://westfaelischer-kunstverein.de)



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