

Born in Hollywood, California, to two World War II survivors—a Viennese father, who had had four nationalities throughout his lifetime and a German Jewish mother, who was baptized Catholic as Hitler was gaining power—Nicola Ginzel has been working as a visual artist for over 25 years. Her work involves the transformation of something given, often referred to as, 'everyday ephemera.' She makes two- and three-dimensional work using mixed media, often employing various processes such as stitching and frottage. The famous art critic, John Yau, in his article, 'An Artist who Turns Detritus into Talismans,' published in Hyperallergic, in 2018, wrote:

*Ginzel's interest in transformation and the inherent healing power of certain materials connects her to artists as disparate as Yves Klein and James Lee Byars. I can associate what she does with a wide range of very other artists — from Hilma af Klint and Emma Kunz to Joseph Cornell, Philip Hanson and Antonin Artaud to Outsider artists — but in the end they all fall away. Her use of sewing to draw, write, and stitch defines a territory that is all her own.*

Nicola is a recipient of a 2019-20 Fulbright US Scholar Grant, which enabled her to participate in the Q21 Artist-in-Residence Program at the Museumsquartier in Vienna, Austria, during the spring of 2020. Her project there with her host institution, Lumine, received further funding from the 'Austrian American Partnership Fund' through the US Embassy in Vienna in 2021.

Past residencies include SIM, The Icelandic Visual Arts Association and Reykjavik Art Museum Residency; The Skaftfell Cultural Center Residency in Seydisfjörður, Iceland; and BoxoPROJECTS in Joshua Tree, CA, where she worked together with shamen. Her work has been featured by selected venues such as Artcritical by Stephanie Buhmann; in Art in America, written by Janet Koplos, and The Philadelphia Inquirer by Edith Newhall. Nicola had her first ten-year retrospective and traveling museum exhibition, 'Language, Symbol, Artifact,' at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tusculum, AL. Other selected solo exhibitions have been at Cathouse FUNeral, Brooklyn, NY; The Gallery@1GAP, Brooklyn, NY; the Corridor Gallery in Reykjavik, Iceland; and FreedmanArt Gallery in New York City.

Her most recent online residency organized through Undercurrent called '10001,' lasting six weeks over zoom in 2020, paired her together with the Maltese Composer, Mariella Cassar-Cordina. Their collaboration (and others) was supported by select members of the EU National Institutes for Culture based in NYC. Nicola is a dual citizen of Austria and USA.

Nicola Ginzel  
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