KUB Collection
**Anna Jermolaewa**15 | 07 – 29 | 10 | 2023

***Chernobyl Safari*, 2014/23**

Video 55 min., 79 photographs, 11 watercolors
Courtesy of the artist and Kunsthaus Bregenz

*Chernobyl Safari* presents the fauna of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. With no one hunting or encroaching on these animals’ habitat due to the evacuation of the zone’s human population, the local wildlife has thrived despite being constantly exposed to high amounts of radiation. In fact, the area is such a haven that over four hundred species flourish there, including fifty that are classified “endangered.” Jermolaewa traveled to the exclusion zone in 2014 and again in 2021, where she went on a “safari.” She traversed forests and fields, capturing “trophies” with her camera, sometimes setting photo and video traps. She then drew the animals she didn’t “capture.” Some of her drawings were inspired by myths she had heard about the zone’s mutated and radioactive beasts. A mix of fantasy and reality, this work shows a paradise for animals – a paradise destroyed by the Russian invasion in February 2022. The exclusion zone became a war zone. Jermolaewa recently succeeded in recovering some of the imagery that was recorded by the wildlife cameras in February and March 2022. These current recordings are on view in Bregenz for the first time.

***Famous Pigeons*, 2021**

8 watercolors, 3 pigeo clocks
Courtesy of the artist and Kunsthaus Bregenz

*Famous Pigeons* is an installation that highlights eight brave carrier pigeons in the 20th century. It consists of portraits of these fearless birds that contain descriptions of their daring deeds. Three pigeon clocks, which register a pigeon’s time of arrival, sit below them, a reminder that time is of the essence.

***Dining Room*, 2017**

Video 13:28 min., watercolor, cutlery made from bomb casings, table, chairs, vinyl tablecloth
Courtesy of the artist and Sammlung Johann Widauer

From 1964 through 1973, the United States dropped over two million tons of bombs on Laos. Many of these bombs still exist as unexploded ordinance, buried in the countryside soil. In a village outside of Phonsavan, Laos, locals have found a positive use for these “bombies,” after detonated by a bomb-clearing unit. These villagers melt the remaining aluminum casings to make various items, the most popular of which are dining ware. *Dining Room* is a dining-room installation that uses Lao-made objects, including spoons, forks, and knives made out of American bomb casings, to construct a setting that is both inherently Lao and an emulation of the typical American family dinner placement.