

SIBILLA CAFLISCH

Dal Lunghin al Rein

19 October – 23 November 2025

Opening: Saturday, 18 October, 3 p.m.

Lines of sand stretch across the uneven floor of the Kunsthalle Arbon, running parallel to one another at regular intervals or condensing into concentric structures. They recall contour lines on geological maps, water channels in a dried-up riverbed, or even a Zen garden. The lines create a topography of their own, freely meandering into closed, distorted ellipses while also blending with the characterful floor of the building, which was originally used as an industrial hall.

For her installation, Sibilla Caflisch collected sand from the riverbeds and streambeds of the Avers Rhine and its tributaries, dried it, and shaped it on the floor of the Kunsthalle Arbon using watering cans. The starting point for her artistic research project *Dal Lunghin al Rein* (2024–2025) was a hike from Juf to Maloja, which included crossing the Lunghin Pass. This pass is geologically remarkable as three rivers originate there and flow into the three major seas that surround Europe. This fact, along with the beauty of the region, prompted the artist to explore the area artistically and to follow one of the waterways northward—via the Avers Rhine and the Posterior Rhine to Lake Constance and on to Arbon.

In the streambeds of these rivers, rock eroded into sand over millions of years accumulates, slowly carried from the Lunghin Pass toward the seas. For Sibilla Caflisch, this sand represents a transformation process unfolding over vast geological time scales. In contrast stands the comparatively brief lifespan of a human being—a contrast Caflisch became acutely aware of during her hikes—or the even shorter span of time in which we wander through the exhibition, giving the sand our full attention. With her installation, Caflisch creates a meditative space addressing themes of time, transience, connection to nature, transformation, and the use of natural resources.

In the upper floor of the Kunsthalle, a film explores the waterways and tributaries of the Rhine that Sibilla Caflisch followed on her hikes. Video recordings of melting snow, trickles, streams, and gorges portray the element of water—at times freely meandering, at times contained in reservoirs. Through editing the raw footage, Caflisch probes our perception of temporality, using techniques such as mirroring, stretching, or reversal. The images are combined with sound that underscores the rhythm of the water and highlights its movements. For this, the artist collaborated with David Sontòn Caflisch—composer, violinist, and musical director of Ensemble ö! for new music.

About the Artist

After receiving her diploma in Fine Arts from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Carrara, Sibilla Caflisch completed a Master's in Art Education at Zurich University of the Arts and at Kyoto University of Art and Design. Her art is shaped by intuitive experimentation and a meditative, focused search for and transformation of structures and textures. Since 2020, the stone sand deposited in bodies of water through erosion has served as both the fundamental material and conceptual inspiration for her artistic work. She uses this sand—mixed with acrylic paint—as the base material for her relief paintings. For the Kunsthalle Arbon, she is using sand for the first time in loose form as a floor installation.

Website: scaflisch.com

Accompanying Program

Public Guided Tours

Saturday, 1 and 15 November, 4 p.m.

Talk

Saturday, 8 November, 3 p.m.

Sibilla Caflisch in conversation with Dr. Larissa de Palézieux (Geologist, ETH Zurich) and Martina Venanzoni (Kunsthalle Arbon) about her installation, erosion processes, and geological features of Graubünden.

Finissage

Sunday, 23 November, 1 p.m.

Concert with Ensemble ö! (Maria Kropotkina, viola; Christian Hieronymi, cello; Daniel Sailer, double bass)

Followed by a collective return of the sand to Lake Constance.

Adjusted Opening Hours for This Exhibition

Saturday and Sunday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed on Fridays)

Public Exhibition Setup

Wednesday – Friday, 15–17 October, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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List of Works

Dal Lunghin al Rein – ciclus, 2025

Sand (from the Avers Rhine)

Site-specific installation for Kunsthalle Arbon, variable dimensions

Dal Lunghin al Rein – reflexiuns, 2025

Single-channel video, black-and-white, with sound, 3'17", looped projection

Music: David Sontòn Caflisch, excerpt from *Aqua micans*, version for 6 low instruments, 2020