



LA GALLERIA S.r.l. · SAN MARCO 2566 · I – 30124 VENEZIA

**PRESS RELEASE**

**»FOREVER FADING. Project of Carolin Liebl & Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler in Ways of Hope«**

*Venice Gallery Weekend March 27 – 29 2026*

On the occasion of **Venice Gallery Weekend 2026**, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery is pleased to present a selection of recent works by the young German duo **Carolin Liebl & Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler**, as part of the exhibition *Ways of Hope*. Carolin Liebl (\*1989) and Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler (\*1987) have been working together since 2012 in Offenbach, Germany. After their first participation in the exhibition *Experimente I* in 2015, they have regularly shown their work at Cadoro, the main venue of Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery in Mainz. Following recent travels to China and exhibitions at the Goethe-Institut in Dublin in 2024 and at the Henry Royce Hub Building at the University of Manchester in 2025, the artists now present their latest research in Venice. Their work focuses on the reuse of PLA (polylactic acid) bioplastic, a material made from sugars found in natural and renewable sources such as maize and sugar beet.

*In 1957, Roland Barthes wrote: »More than a substance, plastic is the very idea of its infinite transformation.«* This idea is central to the artists' practice. Using unusual robotic systems, they create sculptural installations that explore the boundaries between human and non-human, natural and artificial. Their works accelerate the natural process of plastic decay, making transformation visible. In *Forever Fading*, what disappears is transformed into something new. The idea of transformation is not only linked to natural processes – here expressed through the ethical use and reuse of bioplastic – but also to wider economic, political and social changes. Time plays a key role, shaping all man-made materials and opening up new possibilities for change and renewal. The artists' work brings together a clear contrast: plastic, often linked to unsustainable consumption, is turned into installations that resemble natural forms, far from the idea of a perfect and artificial nature. These environments allow viewers to observe processes of decay, where fiction and reality, human and non-human, natural and artificial come together. Through their research, the artists give new, sustainable life to materials originally designed to be disposable.

The project by Carolin Liebl and Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler fits closely within the exhibition *Ways of Hope*. The message of hope, developed through the work of various international artists, is expanded by the duo's young and eco-conscious perspective, once again highlighting the role of art as a powerful vehicle for hope.

**On Saturday March, 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. there will an aperitif in La Galleria with the artists, Carolin Liebl and Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler speaking about their project *Forever fading* in the exhibition *Ways of Hope*.**

**Contacts:**

**Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen · [dvanderkoelen@chorus-verlag.de](mailto:dvanderkoelen@chorus-verlag.de) · Mobil: +49 – 171 – 4 208 280**

**La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen · I-30124 Venezia · San Marco 2566 (Calle Calegheri)  
Chiara Omiccioli · Mob.: 0039 – 327 – 692 3 693  
[lagalleria@vanderkoelen.com](mailto:lagalleria@vanderkoelen.com)**