



**Provocative and poetic:
on the connecting power of art as ritual**
Krystel Geerts
November 2 - December 14, 2024

Krystel Geerts (1993, NL) questions our perception of reality. A reality that is increasingly influenced by the digital, by alienating images. For her two works *UNFOLD I* and *II* (2021), she made clay bricks that she then built up into two monumental sculptures that resemble a classic chapel, like the ones you can see along the road. But something strange happens to the 'hard' shape of the stones under Geerts' hands: they seem to expand and sometimes even seem to merge. They look weatherworn and shiny fresh at the same time. As if they have fallen apart into fragments and have been rebuilt as happens in computer games.

This continuous transformation is also visible in her 'kite' made of textile, *Folded II* (2024). It is said that the first ever kite was flown in China around 400 BC. In Asia, the kite has a rich tradition as a symbol of freedom and connection. For Krystel Geerts, the folds and the space between the folds are the core of the work: "With the physical folds in the material, like with the fragmentation of the stacked stones, I investigate how reality and meaning reveal themselves in layers. Each stone and fold represents an experience, memory or thought, joined together to form a greater whole. Both the stones and the folds symbolize an intermediate space where meanings are rearranged, allowing new insights or thoughts to arise."

For Geerts, this process is about capturing and strengthening energy in a shape that embodies presence, an anchor point in our turbulent times. By playing with monumentality, illusion and amorphous elements, she creates a tension between growth and decay, between construction and transience. The visible process, the signs and gestures of making, provide a connection between the work and the viewer who is invited to reflect on the processes of construction and decay. Geerts' kite represents the idea that new insights and meanings arise in a dynamic process in which perspectives are constantly being changed.