

HC
founded in Brussels in 2016

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In their second solo exhibition at Lucas Hirsch, Düsseldorf, the artist collective HC present 32 cropped pages of a found book, meticulously framed. The pages of the book show the marks of a pest - a so called „bookworm“ - which gives the show its title. The animal, whose colloquial name is the synonym for a bibliophile, becomes the artist, the author, its marks are the drawings that constitute the artworks in this show. HC think of the worm as a collaborator, a conspirator, they invite it into their collective practice and hand over the responsibility for several formal decisions. HC's role remains to select and crop the pages and to present them in an archival manner. Through this process the fragmented illustrations and texts of the children's book* – scratchy ink drawings and a simple, playful language – insinuate new lines of meaning and open up new spaces of narrative. The worm as the ally responds to the contents of the book only presumably in an ignorant manner, maybe it reads what has been written within the wooden texture of the material, the paper itself, thus revealing the destruction of natural narratives that human existence causes constantly. Maybe the worm only reacts, maybe the worm is an artist, maybe it responds to our cultural utterances. Maybe HC found a way to communicate with the worm, reading its marks and notes and in this way they were given the ability to reinterpret the meaning of the letters and drawings we usually automatically decode within split seconds.

*„Das Pferd Huppdiwupp und andere lustige Geschichten“ von Heinrich Hannover, erschienen 1985 bei Rowohlt, Illustrationen von Wilfried Zeller-Zellenberg