





The March solar equinox marks the time of the year when day and night are equal in length all around the world. In the northern hemisphere, this marks the Spring equinox, or the pagan solar holiday Ostera, which has long been celebrated as a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings.

This artwork brings together symbols and ritual objects that celebrate this time of year, as we transition from the winter into spring. There are objects such as Carnelian, which is a crystal used for manifestations of creation, focus and balance. Other objects that adorn the chain include flowers, wax, and sage.

But in this and future years, the spring equinox may bring different tidings. As much as it marks the end of the harsh winter, it may come to bring the destabilizations of climate catastrophe. So this spring offer also clusters objects that may be useful in an emergency: flies for fishing invasive species that will flourish in warmer waters, a small pocket knife, a lighter to start a fire.

In spring we may also offer our hopes and intentions for the year to come. Considering these contexts, intentions are set forth, handwritten on small pieces of watercolor paper painted with cyanotype.

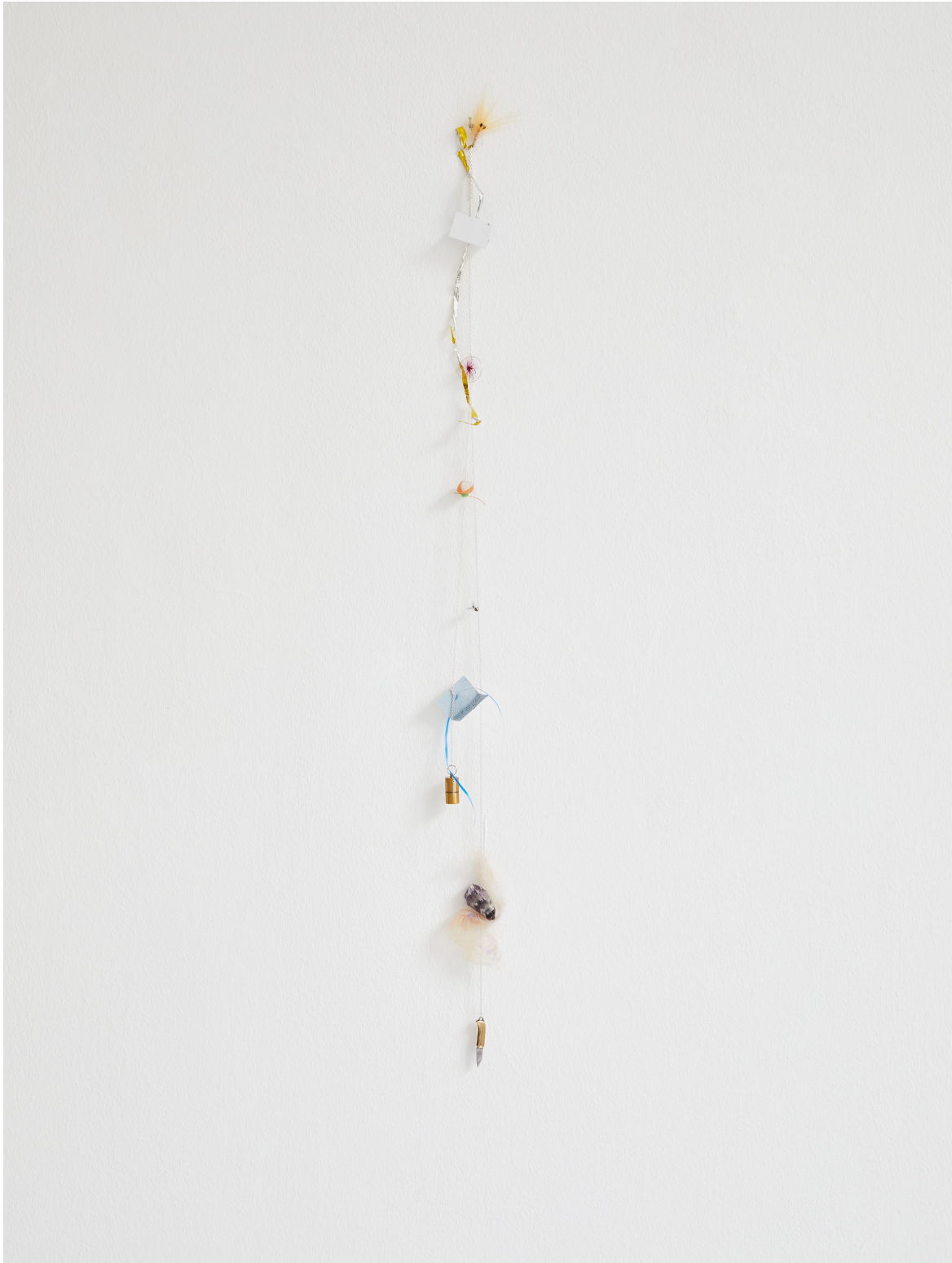
Bringing these objects together is about engaging the world on multiple levels—having hope but not blindly, practicing mystic rituals while also holding scientific consensus close. Or for the bringing together of multiple affects, as in the words of Antonio Gramsci, “my mind is pessimistic, but my will is optimistic.”

Even further, these clusters also point to the wish for a different kind of relationship with nature. One where we all have a proximity to the natural world and the knowledge to start a fire, or catch a fish. One that would demystify and shift our perception, and incorporate forms of knowledge that have been suppressed by false promises and in the name of progress.

This work was made possible by the generous support of The New Institute, Hamburg, as well as the unwavering help, insightful conversations, and shared spring wishes from staff and fellows.

– Anthea Behm

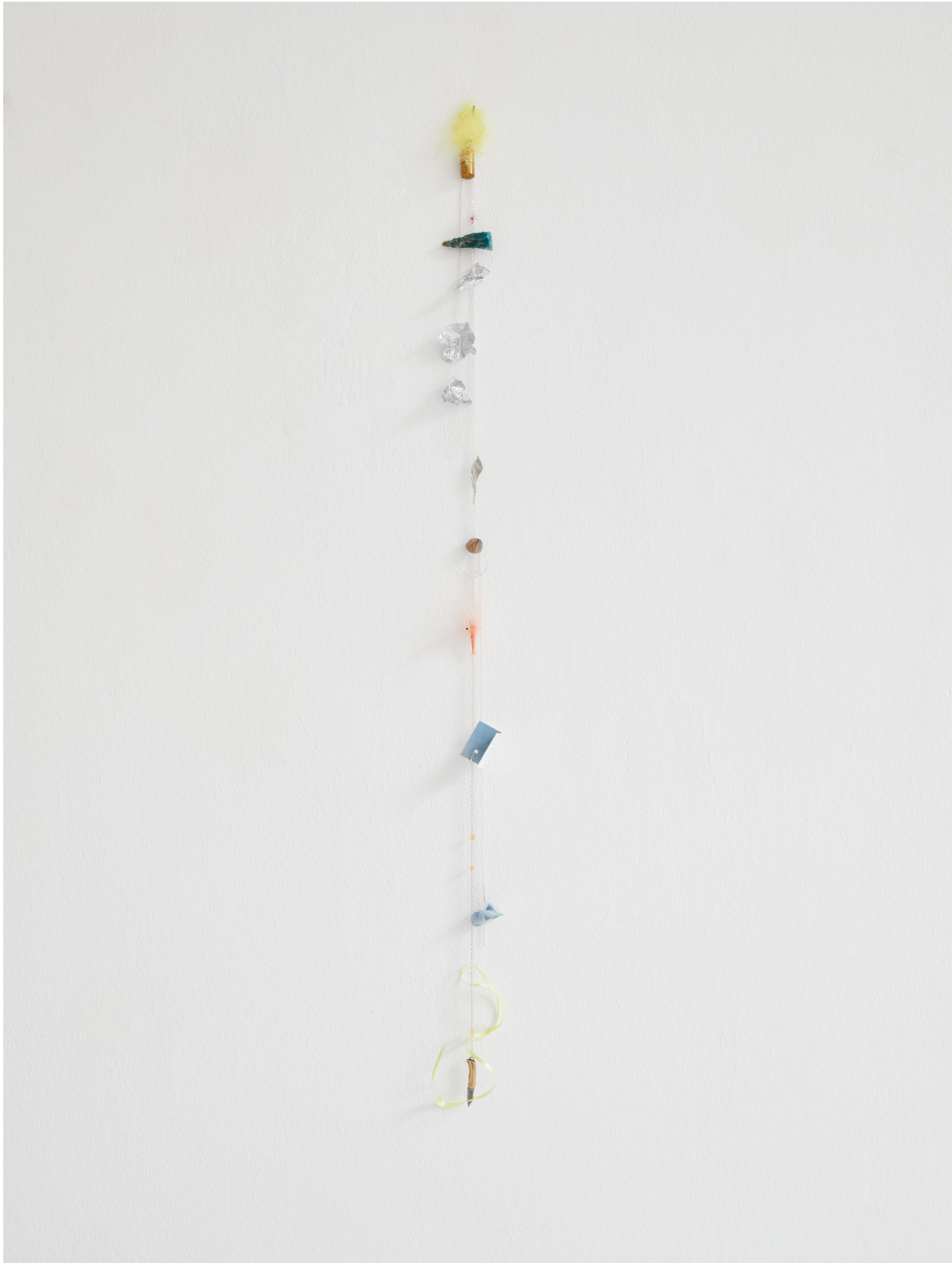
This year, the gallery will donate parts of the proceeds to the nursing staff at The Clinic for Child and Adolescent Medicine (Kinder-UKE) at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.



*Spring offering (#1), 2023*

Chain, earring loops, cyanotype on watercolor paper, crystals (Carnelian, Amethyst), wax, ribbon, dried flower petal, dubbing fiber, fishing flies, emergency blanket, pocket knife, kerosene lighter, wire

92 cm (L) / 36.2 in (L)



*Spring offering (#2), 2023*

Chain, earring loops, cyanotype on watercolor paper, crystals (Blue Apatite, Amethyst), wax, ribbon, sage, dried flower, dubbing fiber, fishing flies, emergency blanket, pocket knife, kerosene lighter, wire

93 cm (L) / 36.6 in (L)





