



Peineta

IRENE PÉREZ HERNÁNDEZ

Photography: Irene Pérez Hernández

Text: Stephan Rößler

Graphic Design: juliaperez.es

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St. Georgen im Schwarzwald

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Peineta

IRENE PÉREZ HERNÁNDEZ

Peineta



With their familiar forms and the use of common materials, traditional artefacts activate the cultural memory of a region in order to create local identity, and to build a sense of belonging within a community. Against the background of a globalized society, these functions of cultural objects may appear obsolete, or seem to serve the narrative of marketing for 'cultural tourism'. The artist Irene Pérez Hernández, subtly deals with the question of how culture emerges by means of everyday products. She addresses, in her work Peineta, fundamental questions about the meaning of identity creation through the use of objects. In the work she directs focus onto her materials, as well as on the creation process.

The peineta or the peineta de teja are elaborately designed combs that have appeared in Spanish-speaking culture since the 17th century. Their origins can be found in the Iberian Peninsula of the fifth century. They are usually worn by women for headdresses in connection with the traditional mantilla on special occasions and cultural festivals. The material, the ornamentation, and the fine craftsmanship displayed in the filigree play a central role in the elaborate design of the Peineta.

Irene Pérez Hernández, who comes from Valencia, harnesses this original Spanish tradition and transfers it to a place that has its own culture of women's headdresses, of the Bollenhütte, The Black Forest. Pérez Hernández, who currently lives and works in the Black Forest, makes these hybrid peinetas from local Black Forest wood and wood from a Spanish almond tree. She not only treats the iconography of the material, but also focuses on production and manufacture. Specifically she makes the combs in collaboration with a local artisan in the Black Forest. In this way she forges a collective practice, expressing her cultural identity in dialogue, with the craftsmanship of the local carpenter, using geographically mixed materials.

The result is an everyday object that bears the unique cultural characteristics of two different cultures both formally and materially. Pérez Hernández transfers the artistic, ornamental decorative elements of the traditional peinetas into a replica of the original form augmented by numerous circular crests. The result is a composite sculpture of cultural objects that not only connect two highly distinctive, and highly distinct, regions, but which also exemplifies the functions of cultural objects in a very beautiful way.

Stephan Rößler

Peineta
2022, almond, 8 x 8 cm





Peineta
2022, spruce, 8 x 8 cm

Peineta
2022, beech, 8 x 8 cm





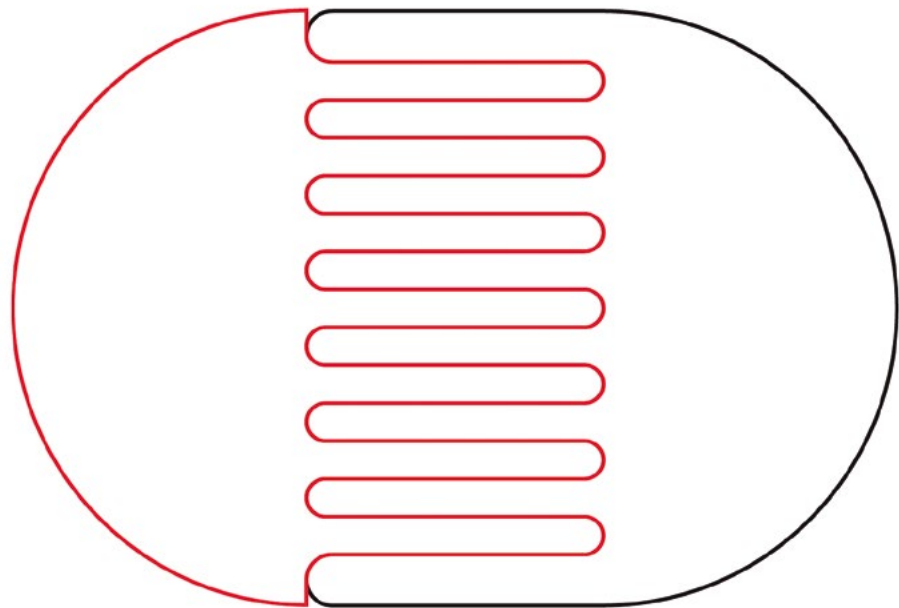
Peineta
2022, oak, 8 x 8 cm

Peineta
2022, cherry, 8 x 8 cm



Peineta
2022, cherry, oak, 6 x 14 x 6,5 cm





Peineta, drawing series
2022, ink, 8 x 12 cm



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