

IRENE PÉREZ HERNÁNDEZ - THE WHEEL SERIES III



Wheel series III 2023, wood, metal,
155diamx175x130cm

Wheel series III is part of a larger series of works entitled *The Wheel*. The series centres on the wheel as a symbol of transformation, oscillating between the old and the new, the past, the present and the future. Historical developments are taken as a starting point to explore our cultural roots and use the insights gained to examine current technological progress and sustainability strategies. The ability of technologies to improve the quality of life is the focus of the works in the series.

The *Wheel Series III* consists of a set of decommissioned wood hammers mounted on a wheel driven by a motorised belt system. The hammers come from a plumber's workshop that was founded in the early 20th century in St. Georgen in the Black Forest and has been in the family for four generations.

The hammers, a central piece in the sculpture, as a manual tool was used for most of man's histories here are moved by a motor. The artist's intention is to depict a metaphor by automating the movement: The motor does not separate the work from human activity, but becomes a modified object that optimises human labour.

Circular movement, repetition, cycles and loops are recurring elements in the formal language of Hernández's works. The wheel, too, is driven by a subtle rotational movement and is related to time and space. For the artist, the wheel is again a metaphor. However, unlike the hammers, it does not stand for optimised and automated work processes, but for change as well as for those cycles of past eras that are forgotten and rediscovered.

For the artist, the wheel also refers to clocks, an instrument that marks time and space. The measurement of time is defined by the beating of the hammers, which is reminiscent of the collective rhythm of the former family business in St. Georgen.