

# Matthias Klos

*18122-75/1*

2025

Photography, pigment print, mounted on aluminium, framed  
each  
152 x 137 cm, Edition 2 + 1 A.P.  
and  
61.5 x 56.5 cm, Edition 3 + 1 A.P.

The photographs show the remains of shell fragments from Indonesia, discovered beneath the floorboards of an old farmhouse in the northern Weinviertel region. The numerical code in the title conceals the cadastral identifier of the site where these artefacts were found; the originals measure approximately one to six centimetres in size. They were the raw material for mother-of-pearl button production — work carried out largely as cottage industry throughout the last century — and are today relics of a vanished economy.

The photographic enlargement of approximately thirty times their actual size reveals the shells' delicate traces of life: their layering and deposits, set in contrast to the mechanical drill holes of the button blanks. The focus stacking technique employed in the process echoed, in a sense, the very stratification of the mother-of-pearl shells themselves: to achieve consistent sharpness across each motif, every artefact was scanned across its planes of focus in well over one hundred individual exposures, which were then composited into a single image.

As remnants of a production process, these traces speak not only of manual labour and the exploitation of natural resources, but also of a landscape as palimpsest — a place where regional history and global flows of goods intersect, overlap, and leave their mark. In this work, history, economy, and nature sediment into a narrative, a chronosequence of a region in which local working lives are interwoven with global extractivisms, and where the local appears not as backdrop but as an archive of global entanglements.



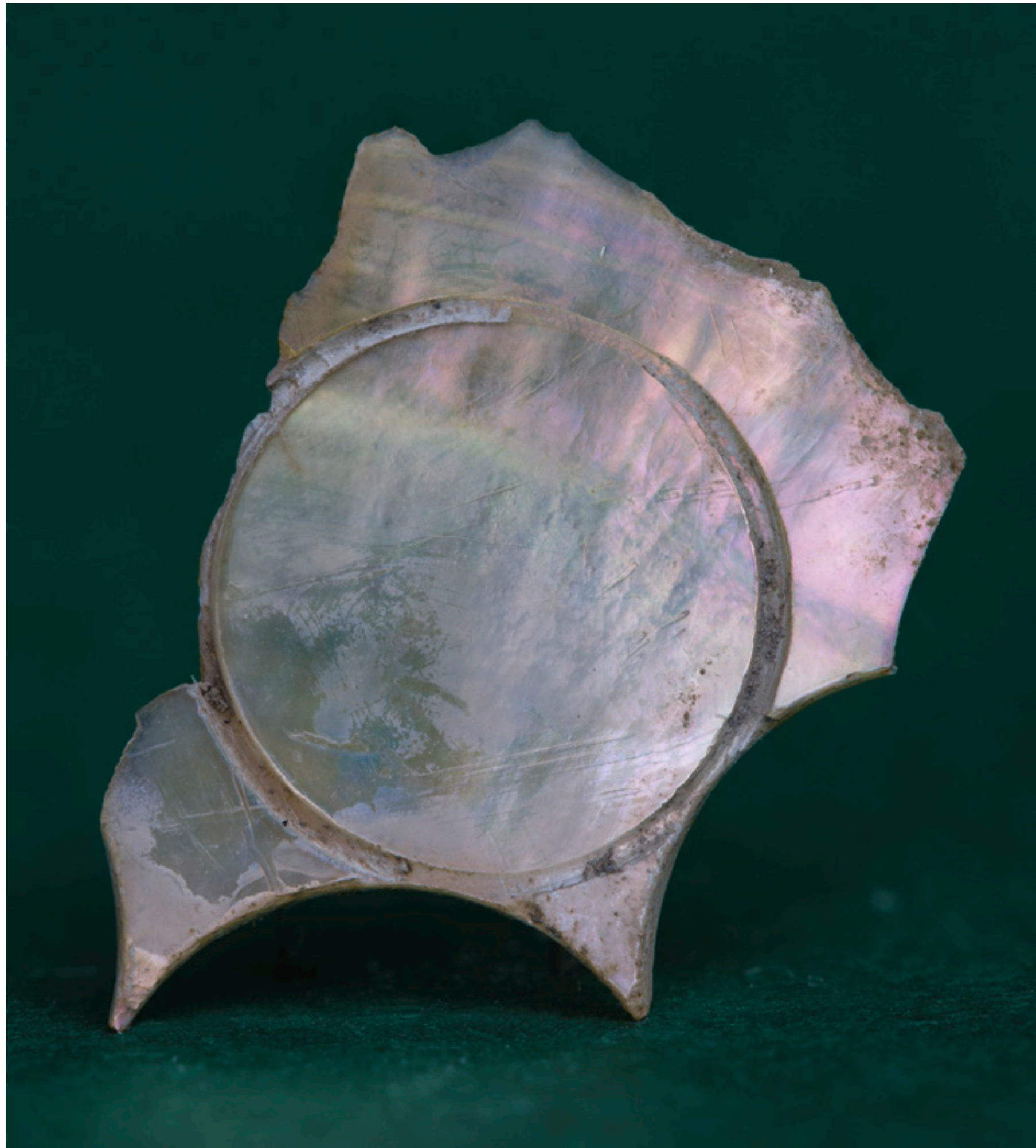
Galerie Reinthaler, Vienna, 2025



18122-75/1\_A  
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18122-75/1\_B  
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18122-75/1\_C  
2025



18122-75/1\_D  
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