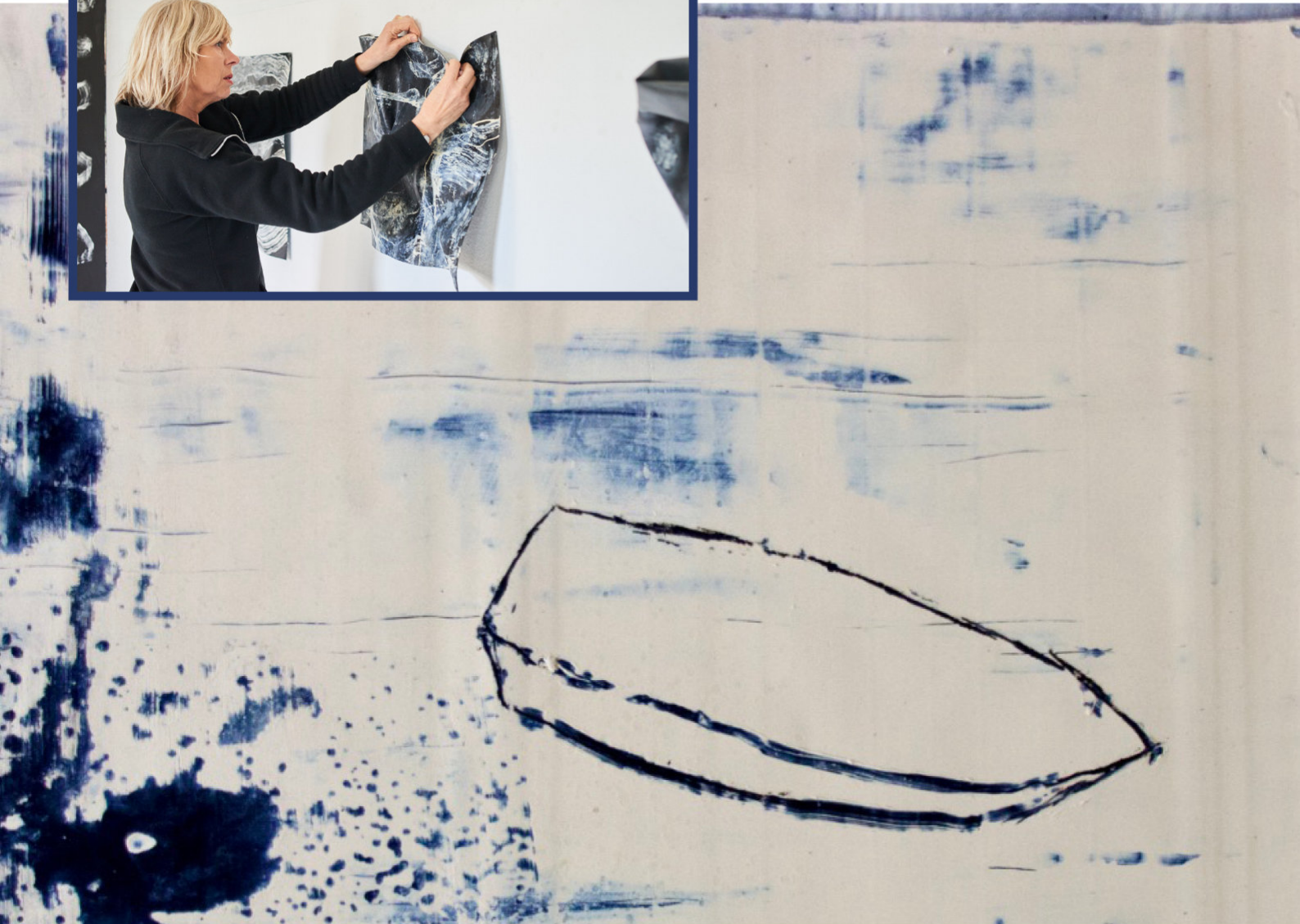


MARTINA VAN DE GEY, GERMANY



Iepen mienskip-

In hetzelfde schuitje / In the same boat

During a boat trip on the canals through Leeuwarden with artists from Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia, Zimbabwe and Germany, we talked about the term "iepen Mienskip". Through the conversation, it became clear that we as human beings are connected by our common needs and desires and we all face the same challenges and therefore we are "all in the same boat", "In hetzelfde schuitje". It does matter to us, if our neighbor does not feel well, or if refugees in the Mediterranean drown on the run, because that also has consequences for our contemplative life and for our own well-being. Inspired by this impression, I began to fold boat-like bodies of rubber and paint them with thin paint. Boats also play a central role in the resulting paintings, be it children's figures, who look at the floating boats as missed opportunities, or drawn boats that float in the picture as brittle bodies.

The boat stands as a metaphor for the fragile existence of man and the environment, but also for the conviction of the power of solidarity and mutual acting for a better world.

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