



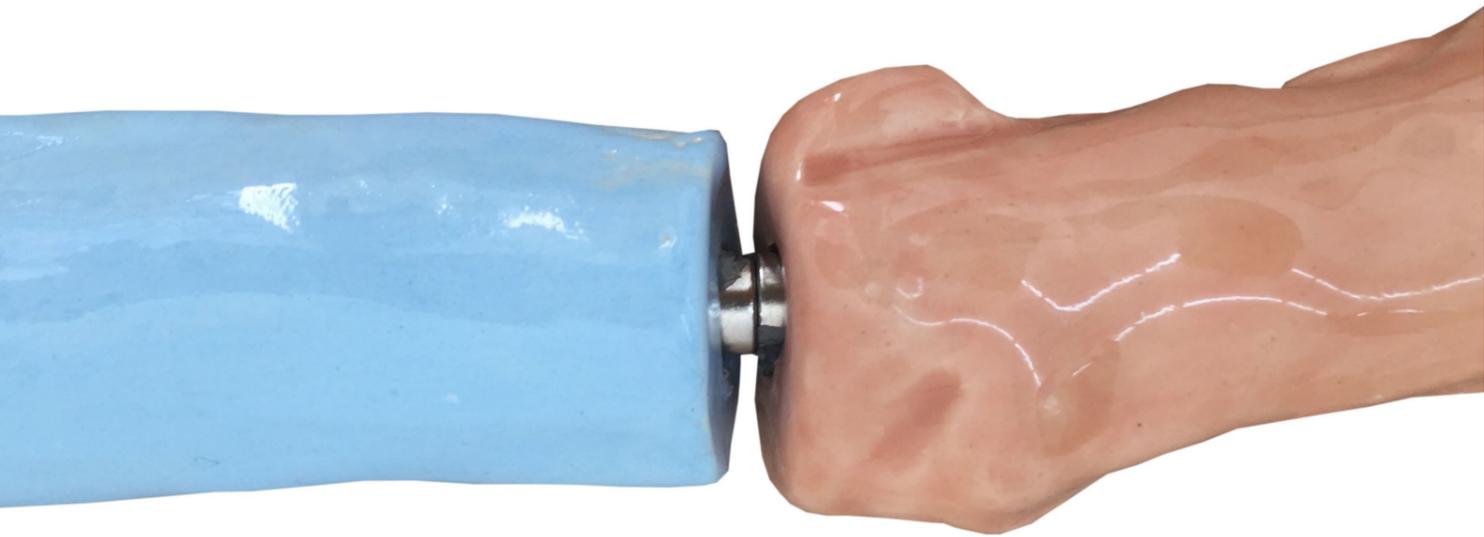
HELLA GERLACH  
**LOOSE JOINTS**

26th April - 10th June 2019

ACAPPELLA  
Via Cappella Vecchia 8/A  
80121 Naples Italy

LOOSE JOINTS, 2019  
Installation view





LOOSE JOINTS, 2019  
Installation detail

## LOOSE JOINTS

For her third exhibition in Naples, Gerlach fills the gallery with a set of new sculptures. Inflatable plastic forms hang from the ceiling, floating in space, themselves filled with air. Their organic forms can only unfold when one injects them with breath, and like human bodies, they are strong and pliable, but also vulnerable: They move with the movements of viewer who approaches them. The centers of these inflatable bodies are, thus, connected to the environment that surrounds them; they are enclosed, but also mobile. Gerlach has outfitted them with ropes that connect to various ceramic handles, adding a both a graphic dimension (lines) and a connection to various sculptural materials. Like the inflatables, the ceramics also have open centers, through which the lines of rope flow. Each element is a point of connection, a loose joint that simultaneously anchors and sends the work into new spatial and material directions.

Instead of having lines enclose her forms, as contours or traces drawing objects together, Gerlach's loose joints seem to disperse her sculptures in space. New textile works pursue a similar strategy. Woven on a looms with collaborators in Bolzano and Berlin, the peripheries of Gerlach's carpets are knotted tightly together. But their centers explode, as extensions of thread burst forth and hang to the ground. These open centers reach outward from the grid into space, as if the threads constituting the work were feeling their way to new possibilities and new shores. One might be reminded of a central train station turned inside out: instead of all paths and points conjoining into one singular center, like a national transportation network, the center spills forth numerous new possibilities that are all tangled up and intertwined. *Uscita Grande*, a giant lap. In Latin, a *stemma* meant a ribbon or the sort that connected various elements together; in family trees, a *stemma* could connect various generations of relationships into one tree (a trunk, or *Stamm*, in German). Gerlach's ribbons connect various threads into open patterns like a family open to new, contingent developments. Their joints are loose and flexible. Like her linear ceramic rods, which are made of different sections connected with magnets so that they can be re-assembled into new patterns, Gerlach's *stemmae* are loose joints that turn literal and metaphorical centers outward. Their extensions become feeling floaters, extending in space and time like meandering life lines that look forward to unexpected interactions.

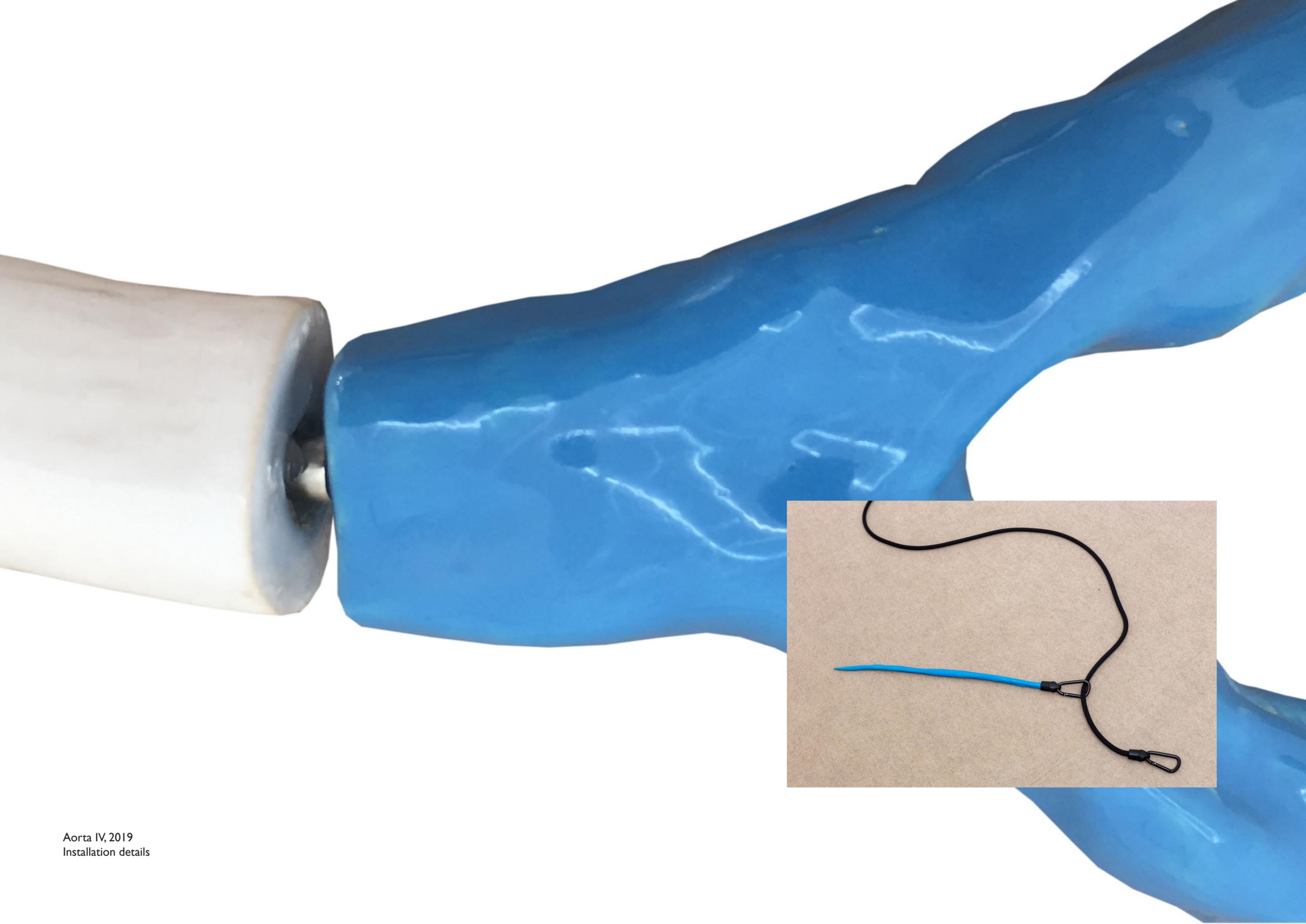
Sasha Rossman

Aorta IV, 2019  
Hairy Sitter, 2019  
Installation view





Aorta IV, 2019  
Pvc, air, climbing rope, glazed ceramic,  
magnets, metal connector, Dimension variable



Aorta IV, 2019  
Installation details



Hairy Debbie, 2018  
Wool, jute, metal, paint  
117 x 100 x 4 cm



Hairy Sitter, 2019  
Cotton, wool, mixed threads and yarns,  
glazed ceramic, metal, paint  
195 x 110 x 15 cm



Hairy Debbie, 2018  
Hairy Sitter, 2019  
Installation details



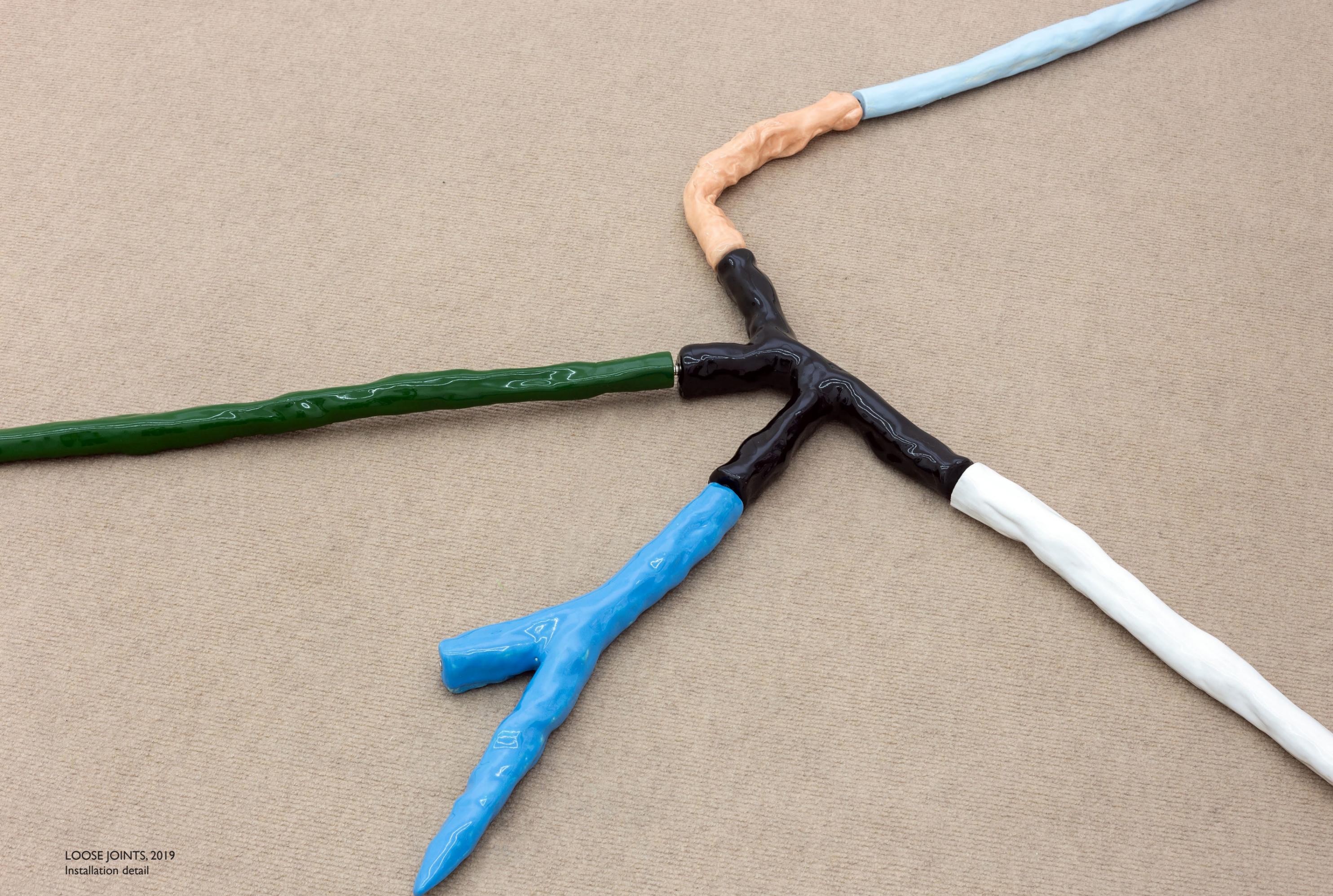
Aorta I and Aorta III, 2018-2019  
Pvc, air, climbing rope, glazed ceramic,  
magnets, Dimension variable



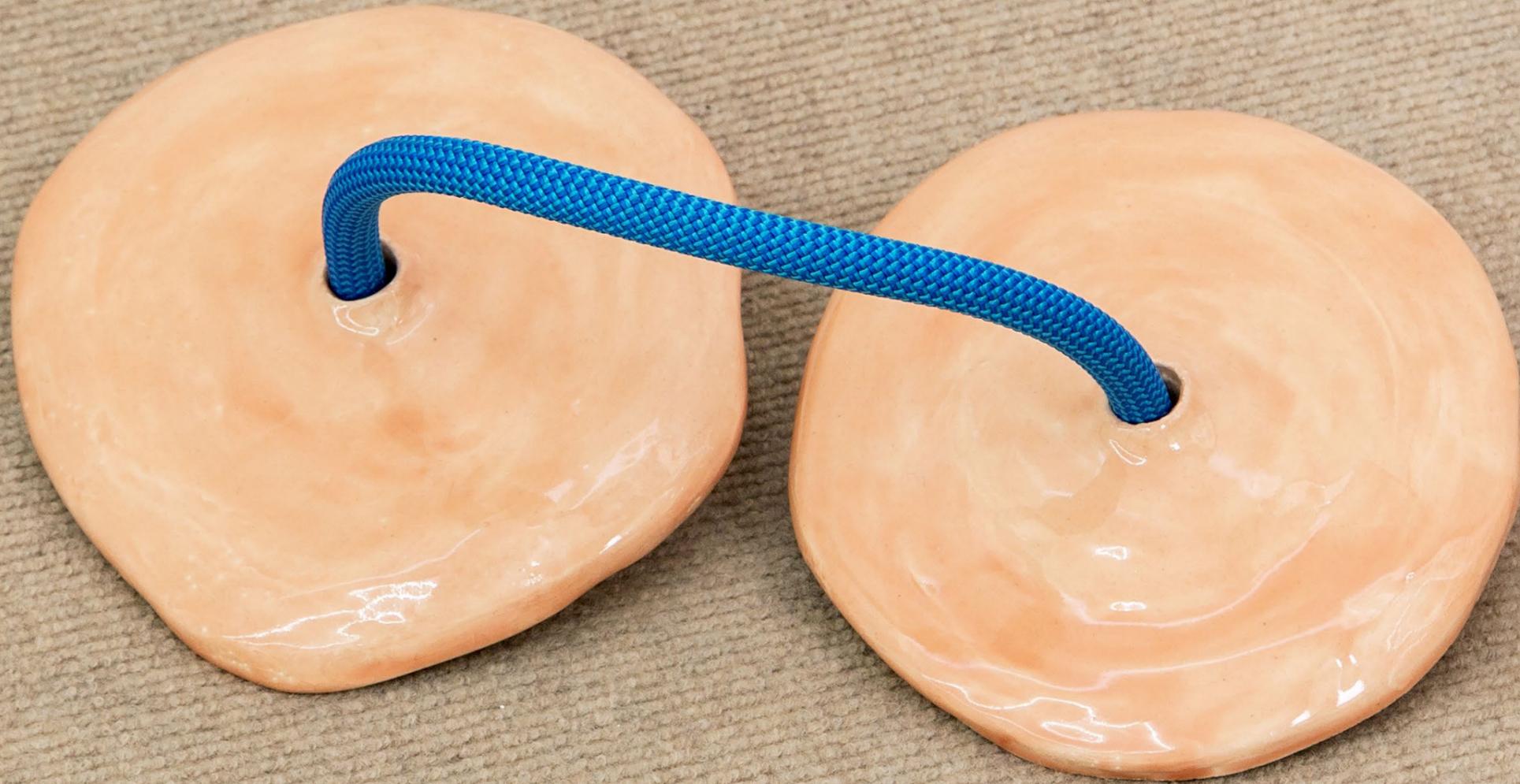
Aorta III, 2018-2019  
Installation detail



Aorta I and Aorta III, 2018-2019  
Installation view



LOOSE JOINTS, 2019  
Installation detail



Dialogo, 2019  
Glazed ceramic, rope  
35 x 18 x 10 cm