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ART BASEL PARCOURS

KNUT HENRIK HENRIKSEN: STAGED EMOTIONS (AUF DER WALZ / THE JOURNEY YEARS)

Exhibition: 20-26 September 2021

Henriksen takes inspiration from the local tradition of Auf Der Walz (Journeyman years), a historic ritual that occurs at the end of the apprenticeship of young craftspeople, who travel for years offering their services in return for room and board. The carpenters of Auf Der Walz practice and distinguish varied techniques and craftsmanship from different areas of the country until they achieve a comprehensive understanding. By adapting the formal language of traditional craftsmanship to the logic of contemporary production, Henriksen opens the rule-bound crafts to play and experimentation. Henriksen's use of cheap, artificial materials become a means to draw attention to the construction of emotional meaning within architectural space.

The garden of the Antikenmuseum holds copies of classical roman sculptures which become protagonists in Henriksen's drama of staged emotions. Henriksen plays with the affect inherent to the material and form of these by considering the ways in which cheap, efficient materials can evoke specific moods and emotions. The classical sculptures suggest an idyllic atmosphere that becomes enhanced by Henriksen's sunset, made from Styrofoam manipulated to appear like rustic wood - a material used to create warmth, comfort and a romantic atmosphere. This sunset functions as a tableau involving the garden and the drama performed between the classical sculptures: a brass necklace decorating Aphrodite of Knidos; a white powdered marble structure that nods to Francis Bacon to articulate the emotional drama enacted by Satyr and Hermaphrodite, and an old medieval structural figure, 'der wilder man', seen in half-timbered houses. This site-specific installation considers the ways in which collective notions of romance and nostalgia manifest and how we retain craftsmanship and historic traditions.

Knut Henrik Henriksen (born 1970 in Oslo, Norway, lives and works in Berlin). Henriksen works with standardised sizes and formulates sculptures that embrace the concept he has named 'Architectural Doubts.' Often these involve raw elements within the exhibition space or technical mistakes and historical changes that have occurred within the building that help give form and size to sculptures. Henriksen explains: "from these doubts, that I identify as interesting within a site or building, I make sculptures and formulate a kind of 'monument' by organising different standardised materials from my own architectural heritage."

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