

Alexander Deubl

Duality

March 15 — April 27, 2024

Galerie Siedlarek, Frankfurt am Main

In his sculptural works, Alexander Deubl explores and interprets the energy of urban spaces. Working with diverse environments, ranging from office buildings to strip clubs and elevator shafts, Deubl creates both minimalist objects and expansive installations in response to the unique character of each site. He particularly focuses on the interplay of light, color, and space, examining their appearance and perceptual effects under varying material conditions.

„Duality“ is Alexander Deubl’s first solo exhibition with the gallery, highlighting two central series in his work: the panel blinds installations and the light objects. Specifically conceived for the exhibition at Galerie Siedlarek, the artist has created the installation „Stratorama Frankfurt“: a stratographic large-scale diorama that transforms the front exhibition space into a walkable kinetic stage. For this work, Deubl used the panel blinds of window curtains taken from abandoned office buildings and painted them with fluorescent acrylic paints. Performing a geometric dance, the luminous colors on the panels generate a kaleidoscope of scenes and spaces throughout the day, with the incoming light creating additional effects, shapes, and shadows. While the original window curtain was utilised to partition spaces into a clear foreground and background, indoors and outdoors, in Deubl’s installation, the curtain itself is turned into an event that challenges our perception of space, light, and color.

The LED objects in the cabinet room draw us into the neo-romantic spheres of modern nightlife. They are conceptually inspired by Roland Barthes essay „Strip-tease“ from the collection „Mythologies“ (1956). In his essay, the French theorist deals with the deconstruction of the striptease and its cultural significance. Deubl’s mirrored light objects seduce us with the globalised symbols of money (dollar sign), love (heart), and fate (star), which perform a hypnotic dance before our eyes. The large-scale work „Tell me, do you want me to do the Shimmy again?“ entices us with the lyric from Tina Turner’s „Private Dancer,“ whilst the reflected image of the viewer in the mirror leaves us questioning, who is actually dancing for whom — who is subject and who is object. Deubl’s mirror constructions open up ambivalent spaces of longing, which simultaneously confront us with our individual dreams and socio-economic constraints - and can thus also be read as a critical commentary on the conditions of the art market.

BIO

Alexander Deubl (*1983) initially completed a vocational training at the Glass Technical School in Kramsach, Austria, before beginning his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. In 2007, he first studied interior design and then joined the sculpture classes of Nikolaus Gerhart (2009) and Olaf Nicolai (2012). Deubl graduated in 2015 with the Senator Bernhard Borst Prize. In 2019/2020, Deubl received a residency grant from Villa Concordia, Bamberg, where he presented the solo exhibition „Licht Fließend Wasser“. Deubl’s works have been shown nationally and internationally in group and solo exhibitions, including at the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2020; 2015; 2008), Laudel Contemporary, Istanbul (2016), Malte Uekermann Kunsthandel, Berlin (2023), Wimmer Contemporary, Munich (2018), Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2012), Burning Man, Nevada, USA (2012), and Eigen+Art, Berlin (2012).

Deubl is a founding member of the artist collective super+, which has been realizing independent exhibition projects since 2015.

Deubl lives and works in Munich.

Works by Alexander Deubl are represented in public collections, including the Munich Re Art Collection, Museum Ritter, Museum of Contemporary and Urban Art (MUCA) Munich, The Linde Group Collection, and the Sixt Collection.