

ERMES - ERMES



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"TRUTH
AND
CONSEQUENCES"

OKEY DOKEY | Pleasures and Terrors of Domestic Comfort

NICK BASTIS, TIMOTHY DAVIES, PENTTI MONKKONEN & CARL STRATHMANN (1866-1939)

September 9 - 30 2017

Ginerva Gambino, Ermes-Ermes (Vienna), Sandy Brown (Berlin) and Truth and Consequences (Geneva) present *Pleasures and Terrors of Domestic Comfort*, an exhibition curated for *Okey Dokey*.

Okey Dokey is a joint exhibition project of galleries and exhibition spaces in Cologne and Düsseldorf with international colleagues.

The title for this show is borrowed from a photography exhibition that took place at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1991. Devoted to life at home, the exhibition presented American photography from the 1980s and examined the American Dream of domestic happiness.

The show at Ginerva Gambino brings together works by 3 international, contemporary artist and one historical position from Germany: Nick Bastis, Timothy Davies, Pentti Monkkonen and Carl Strathmann (1866-1939). Due to increased mobility, automatization, digitalization and gentrification, for many, the reality of life at home has transformed as well and moved further away from the idyllic ideal of domestic bliss. *Pleasures and Terrors of Domestic Comfort* (2017) depicts this ideal as romantic longing.

TIMOTHY DAVIES (*1983, London) collects happened-upon motifs and reins them into a subjective network of intertextuality that might be inward-looking but also has the knock-on effect of activating each thing's potential for calling up a rich set of references (Gili Tal: The place beyond one's prime. Texte zur Kunst, Heft 94 / Mai 2014). The making-cosy of the exterior world represents a form of propaganda for an ideology of reproductive futurism and this in turn makes clear the essentialness of this ideology to the reproduction of capitalism. Suggested arrangements of domestic furniture in the street project solidity and continuity into an otherwise anxious future (from the press release for "Tranquillo", Mavra, March 2017).

"When you don't find what you're looking for, sleep" is a series by NICK BASTIS (*1985, USA) of custom made vinyl chair covers from 2014 - shadows of past shows and homes of some who help bring a work to the world, with traces of smaller creatures who are part of larger systems; "Flute" and "Flute" (2017) are two sculptures hand-milled from aluminum.

"Can ideology be embedded in design? Were the ideals of the GDR embedded in their wall paper? ... I saw photos of a child that looked like me at the same age playing in front of a GDR apartment block. It made me feel like I could have grown up in this alternative world. The 1970's wall paper used to cover the prefab concrete walls of the "plattenbau" reminded me of the home interiors I experienced in my own childhood. I had a track suit similar to a guy in the photos. ... I get strong sensations from 1970's design because it formed the atmosphere of my early childhood. But I don't know if it has any meaning per se. What does it mean to have a bunch of patterned orange/yellow wallpaper everywhere? To wear a polyester tracksuit?" (PENTTI MONKKONEN (*1975, Minneapolis): from the press release for "PLATTENBAU", Truth and Consequences, September 2016).

CARL STRATHMANN (*1866, Düsseldorf †1939, Munich) was a painter and illustrator of Art Nouveau and Symbolism. From 1882 to 1886 he studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. After being dismissed from the academy on account of a lack of talent, he went to study at the Kunstschule Weimar from 1886 to 1889. In 1891 he moved to Munich to enjoy the bohemian lifestyle of his fellow artists and met the painter Lovis Corinth, with whom he entertained a life-long friendship.