

Simon Pfeffel *parsing behavior* 8/2 – 9/21/2014

opening Saturday 8/2/2014 6-9pm performance türen schließen #3

Introduction professor Else (twin) Gabriel academie of art Weißensee Berlin

opening times Tuesday-Friday 12am-6pm, Saturday 12am-4pm and by appointment

BERLIN ART WEEK 16-21 Sep 2014

Saturday 9/20/2014 12am-21pm performance volition #5 at 7pm

Thu 9/18 12am-7pm | Fri 9/19 12am-10pm | Sat 9/20 12am-9pm | Son 9/21 12am-6pm

sculptural work

My current sculptural work was motivated and inspired by an economically precarious region, where people are forced to act creatively in order to cover their daily living expenses. One crucial experience for me was the journey I took in 2011 to Mexico City, where I collected impressions. There where very little space is available for each individual, it is all the more important to find innovative solutions.

Inspired by this, I developed the market stall objects. They consist of a modular insertion system that allows for continual change and extension. Thus they conquer a new space bit by bit, expanding depending on the need or opportunity. These sculptures do not work as closed systems, but offer mainly room for further reflection. The indications that I discovered in this foreign-to-me culture are what I want to fragmentarily formulate with these pieces.

Through their size and material, the sculptures suggest a weight on the one hand, which on the other is lifted by the scaffold construction. The dark, thin elements resemble drawings in space. The fragmentariness of the work loses its levity and becomes almost threatening through the literal shifting of its characteristics. The viewer is confronted with a sculpture that encourages him to complete himself in and with the sculpture. Physicality and relations of size play an important role here.

performance

The Longue-Durée Performances, much like my sculptural work, are hewn from the same daily situations that occupy me in a sustained way. My own body is the point of departure; athleticism plays a crucial role. A simple act unfolds into something complex through duration. Mundane activities, such as jumping on a trampoline or in the air, blowing a handkerchief, become a meditative experience. This process can take hours to days.

During this egocentric act that requires my full concentration, I let the viewer play the voyeur. As I approach my limits physically and mentally, I must fight the urge to give up, shove aside the thought that I'm at the end of my strength.

The viewer stands quietly during this process but feels however the great effort involved. A physical body is held up to him as a mirror. His empathy is tugged at, the thought of his own inadequacy wells up, astonishment alternating with boredom in the monotony of presented action, fatigue turns into exhaustion. By the end, the viewer, provided he's committed to this process and hasn't given up, is released from a tension which until then he only observed in me as the performer.