

Press release

4 September 2018

The large group exhibition *How To See [What Isn't There]* opens on September 9 with a custom-made, site-specific Virtual Reality work by Jon Rafman

How To See [What Isn't There]

9 September 2018 – 17 March 2019

Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany



Ho Sin Tung, *Words Thou Said*, 2009, 32 x 37 x 34 cm, plastic and rubbish bin.
Courtesy Hanart TZ, Hong Kong. Copyright the artist.

The exhibition *How to See [What Isn't There]* opens this Sunday, 9 September, with works by over 30 artists. Among them are sculpture, installation, painting, photography, video, and performance. Together, the works invite us to expand ideas and recognize levels of meaning whose perception is not visual.

As a world premiere, *How to See [What Isn't There]* presents a work by the Canadian artist Jon Rafman, which was created especially for the exhibition. *Deluge (Raketenstation Hombroich)* is a dark vision that deals with the invisible dangers of war. In reference to the military past of Raketenstation Hombroich, which houses the Langen Foundation, Rafman draws feverish images between delusion and reality, which are regarded as virtual reality through goggles and therefore do not allow us to look away. Rafman's images are computer generated. They mediate between material and digital world, reality and technological appearance.

The exhibition deals with the interaction between presence and absence. In one of the most important tendencies of the late 20th century, artists created works that go beyond the visible and deal with immaterial aspects of reality: They merely interpret ideas, set processes of disappearance or dematerialization in motion or define emptiness as content.

Gianni Jetzer, curator of the exhibition, says: "*Art becomes a form of representation that makes it possible to give form to the non-existent. By means of reference systems, traces or mirror effects, an awareness of what is absent is triggered in the mind of the observer.*"

The works of art also interact with the architecture of the Langen Foundation, which was built by the famous Japanese architect Tadao Ando and is influenced by Zen Buddhism. The building is characterized by a vast emptiness. Ando's idea is that space is created through emptiness, through which time is consciously experienced. In the Japan room, object-related installations by Kris Martin and Urs Fischer, which playfully deal with voids, meet the abstract paintings of Huang Rui and Wang Guangle, in which a radical reduction becomes the identity of art. Thus different concepts of emptiness, material and spiritual in origin, are blended.

All works come from the Burger Collection, Hong Kong, an important private collection of contemporary art. The Langen Foundation, Neuss, is considered one of the most beautiful private museums in Europe. Both pairs of collectors have European roots and at the same time a deep connection with the Asian continent. The Burger Collection

comprises a large number of works by artists from Europe, the USA and Asia, which Max and Monique Burger have collected for over twenty years. Since they want to make their collection accessible to a broader public and at the same time have deliberately decided against building their own museum, they sporadically invite curators to present works from the collection according to their visionary criteria.

Notes to Editors

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List of artists

Doug Aitken, Iván Argote, Davide Balula, Fiona Banner, Mohamed Bourouissa, Valentin Carron, Alejandro Cesarco, Angus Fairhurst, Urs Fischer, Sylvie Fleury, Gao Weigang, Gilbert & George, Douglas Gordon, Wang Guangle, Ho Sin Tung, Sabine Hornig, Huang Rui, Marguerite Humeau, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Kong Chun Hei, Fabian Marti, Kris Martin, Hans Op de Beeck, Pak Sheung Chuen, Jon Rafman, Pamela Rosenkranz, Fiete Stolte, The Propeller Group, Kin-Wah Tsang, Wang Du, Xie Lei and Zhang Huan.

Listings details

Exhibition name: *How To See [What Isn't There]*

Dates: 9. September 2018 – 17. März 2019

Address: Langen Foundation, Raketenstation Hombroich 1, 41472 Neuss

Website: <http://www.burgercollection.org>

Instagram: @burger_collection @langenfoundation #howtosee #burgeratlangen

About Burger Collection Hong Kong

Burger Collection Hong Kong is a private collection of contemporary art representing a wide range of works reaching from Euro-American, Indian to Asian art, mirroring a truly global approach to collecting. Since 2009, Burger Collection has turned towards a broader public with its own exhibitions and programs in Berlin and Hong Kong, changing curatorial concepts on its journey. The collection has ventured into collaborations with renowned museums and institutions, engaged in co-operations, supported institutions and artists around the world and created new site-specific works with artists both within and beyond the collection.

<http://www.burgercollection.org>

About Langen Foundation

Since opening its doors in 2004, the Langen Foundation initiated and endowed by the collector Marianne Langen, has been offering the public an opportunity to experience art, architecture, and landscape in a balanced environment. Located on the former missile base amid the Lower Rhine countryside, the exhibition centre was designed by Japanese architect and Pritzker awardee Tadao Ando. Apart from regular presentations of various aspects and areas of Victor and Marianne Langen Collection, the exhibition program comprises solo or thematically conceived temporary exhibitions devoted to contemporary art.

<http://www.langenfoundation.de>

Gianni Jetzer

Gianni Jetzer is an independent curator and critic based in New York as well as Curator-at-large at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington DC. He has realized numerous exhibitions with artists in his positions as curator at Migros Museum in Zurich (1998–2001), Director of Kunsthalle St. Gallen (2001–2006), and Director of Swiss Institute in New York (2006–2013). He is also the curator of Unlimited, Art Basel's pioneering exhibition platform for projects that transcend the classical art-show stand, since 2012.

<http://www.gianni-jetzer.com>