

TANJA POL GALERIE

MARTIN WÖHRL
CUM CUM
08/09/17 - 27/10/17

In his fourth solo show at Tanja Pol Galerie, Martin Wöhrl presents new sculptures and wall works under the title CUM CUM.

The point of departure for Martin Wöhrl's artistic practice is an engagement with space, measure, and volume in the spirit of classical statuary. His contemporary approach involves allusions to contexts external to art and contexts immanent to art. His quotations and appropriations refer to traditions and heraldry, everyday aesthetics and design classics (the work series Eiermann & Co), other artists (the series Fries/Franz von Stuck, Frank Stella), art movements, cultural practices and fashions, or national qualities (Schenna, Pavesi).

Wöhrl's material aesthetic and practice are, not necessarily intentionally, linked to the aesthetic concept of *wabi-sabi*. This untranslatable Japanese term contains, in oversimplified terms, the ideal of imperfection, an ideal of beauty based in fragility, austere simplicity, which is also characteristic of many of Wöhrl's works.

At the same time, several works by Wöhrl are quite humorous, he relies on ironic allusions, the break is often combined with beauty with an ironic title. CUM CUM, the exhibition title and work title, for example, is derived from the morally questionable tax avoidance practice of the "cum-cum" deal: the word sounds basically pleasant and promising, a little Dadaistic, and puzzling for the layman.

The two wall works SCHENNA refer to Schenna in South Tyrol, where Wöhrl found the pattern he uses to organize the surface on a building façade. The PAVESI are freestanding, human-sized sculptures that have a similarity with surveying signs in the forest in Austria. The title has a sound of "Italianità": it is the old name for rest stops in Italy, which for many evokes an air of Italian lifestyle and sentimental memories.

In this way, Wöhrl's works can, depending on their context, space, and location, be examined with a certain openness and offer a great room for associations without seeming random. Wöhrl treasures a clear formal language, a minimalism with a patina, materials with their own story, the poetic in everyday detail: "Limit everything to the essential, but do not remove the poetry. Keep things clean and unburdened, but do not allow them to become sterile," another wabi-sabi quotation.

Martin Woehrl (*1974) lives and works in Munich. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, at the Edinburgh College of Art, and at Glasgow School of Art. He has been awarded with the Lothar-Fischer-Prize for sculpture, has received the Villa Concordia grant

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in Bamberg, the USA-grant of the Bavarian State, DAAD grant and the Bayerischer Staatsförderpreis.

His works are in the following public collections: Lenbachhaus Munich, Kunstmuseum Bonn, and Neues Museum, Nuremberg. In 2017 he designed a room for Museum Villa Stuck, Munich.