

Press release

Der nächste freie Mitarbeiter wird sich kümmern
Stephan Janitzky & Sebastian Stein
Kunstverein Freiburg
25 Jan–8 Mar 2020

Press meeting
Thu, 23 Jan 2020, 5 pm

Opening
Fri, 24 Jan 2020, 7 pm

The silhouette, the outline drawing and monotone colouring are all simple methods of abstraction. Different elements are interlinked beneath a surface, a hidden depth. Incidental matters gain weight and take on a more central position. The abstraction in the exhibition *Der nächste freie Mitarbeiter wird sich kümmern* does not aim to express anything essential, but rather exhibits the simultaneity and constant juxtaposition of continuous occupations. Ambience, as referred to in ambient music, for example, can be distinguished from a demarcated, identifiable structure that is tied to a location or position, being instead a situated atmosphere, where different forms, themes and functions topple into one another.

Stephan Janitzky and Sebastian Stein focus their attention on formal and thematically diverse predilections such as: displays, improvisation, reading, martial arts, ruins, asceticism, painting, hermitism, laziness, acid preparedness, sound, bricolage, drawing, printed material. Many tabs and channels are open and all concern each of us – the abundance of potential information and possibilities can often be paralyzing and concentration decreases; sometimes one might be pulled through the surface into a gap in the formation. The ornamental opposes straightforward functionality, remaining fragmentary in the grid and indefinite. The railing of the first-floor balcony gallery encircling the exhibition hall is hung with banners that frame the hall like banner advertising in football stadiums. In large letter on black or coloured backgrounds, the word 'Nein' ('No') is repeated. The banners were produced for the Foutue exhibition, which Janitzky and Stein, together with Mitra Wakil, presented under the label *No Future Komplex* at Kunstverein Göttingen in 2017. From there, the banners travelled to Munich in 2018 for the demonstrations against changes to the Bavarian Law on Police Duties, where they were utilised by political activist groups, attracting broad media coverage. The 'Nein' banners are drawn back to an artistic context as a poetic proxy for the transition of once concrete activist statements to something ready-made, which now overwrites the entire exhibition from a position of negation.

Janitzky and Stein collaboratively produce a magazine combining artistic and curatorial approaches. The magazine MUSS STERBEN (<http://musssterben.org/>), meaning 'must die', has appeared approximately twice a year since 2014. Taking a loose, conceptual approach, the magazine compiles observational fragments, analysis and images to create a collage of a present age gone mad. The title of each issue sentences a topic to death, so far having declared that Munich, gardens, Zurich, sex, Europe, Wi-Fi, Copenhagen and fashion must die. In addition, the pair have recurrently exhibited together in a variety of collaborative contexts.

Stephan Janitzky works in a bookshop in Munich. He creates performance pieces, installations, collages and writes. Sebastian Stein lives in Hanover, where he occasionally organises events at Ruine HQ (<http://ruinehq.org/>).

Opening Night

Fri, 24 Jan 2020, 7 pm
Introduction: Heinrich Dietz, Director

Programme

Sat, 25 Jan, 7 pm
Talk with Stephan Janitzky & Sebastian Stein and ProForm FilmKlub,
afterwards screening

Thu, 13 Feb, 7 pm
Curator's Tour with Heinrich Dietz

Sat, 15 Feb, 5 pm
Talk with Stephan Janitzky & Sebastian Stein

Sun, 23 Feb, 2 – 4 pm
Children's Workshop (registration required)

Thu, 27 Feb, 7 pm
Guided Tour with Nelly Kuch

We are happy to provide additional information and print-quality images upon request.

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Opening hours:
Tue–Sun, 12 am–6 pm, Thu, 12 am–8 pm, Mon closed
Entrance: 2 € /1,50 €
Thursdays free, Members free

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