

KUNSTVEREIN

FÜR DIE RHEINLANDE UND WESTFALEN
DÜSSELDORF

Press release

Josef Strau

Spirits and Objects...and How Non-Productive Love Is Sometimes Contained in Them...

September 3 – November 22, 2020

Opening Day: Thursday, September 3, 2020, 1 – 9 pm

Could the exhibits be described purely in notions of time? In the spirit of the now seemingly obsolete practice of deconstruction that heavily influenced Josef Strau's earlier works, the exhibition will be attempting to present objects by the artist from the last 20 years, while at the same time endeavoring to analyze and comment on them purely as objects of time and duration, regarding them as if this production of objects was in reality only the result of time, of the durations of anxiety, fear, or even desire. The hermeneutics of the transcendental temporality of these aging, slowly fading art objects is, in a way, hoping for the discovery of time itself as a tool of salvation from these objects' reality. The exhibition Josef Strau – *Spirits and Objects...and How Non-Productive Love Is Sometimes Contained in Them...* will comprise a selection of objects representing mostly tears, fences, letters, angels, icons, turtles, etc. The artists Keren Cytter, Bernadette Van-Huy and Enzo Shalom have also produced new video works based on texts by Josef Strau, which will be presented for the first time at the Kunstverein in letter sculptures created especially for this occasion.

The exhibition is accompanied by readings, lectures, and guided tours (dates will be announced in due course) as well as by the production of a publication (publication date: November 2020).

Curated by Eva Birkenstock

