

**Benefit of the Doubt**

9.3.–29.5.2021

Curated with Franziska Sophie Wildförster

Gerry Bibby  
Rochelle Feinstein  
Sophie Gogl  
Lorenza Longhi  
Henrik Olesen  
SoiL Thornton  
Sung Tieu

We are pleased to announce *Benefit of the Doubt* a group show taking place at Deborah Schamoni gallery in March 2021. This exhibition brings together works by artists Gerry Bibby, Rochelle Feinstein, Sophie Gogl, Lorenza Longhi, Henrik Olesen, SoiL Thornton and Sung Tieu to engage in questions around recognition proper to the aesthetic and socioeconomic dimensions of contemporary art.

The artists invited share a concern in the context, production and reception of contemporary art and the historically and institutionally limited legibility of forms, materials and mediums as they confront common registers of naming, redirecting the processes of their own signification by engaging in idiosyncratic idioms, peculiar syntax and uneasy semiotic puns.

In times of climactic polarization, politics and languages of recognition in the public sphere and in the spaces of art are revealed as double-edged swords. The exhibition focuses on works positioned in an unresolved dispute between formulating subjects and drawing attention to conditions of their very material subjection: reluctant to justify themselves as either reference or abstraction, container or content, revelation or formal withdrawal, their material and formal strategies willingly problematise the predicaments of their own valorization.

How to allow for readings that interrupt the short circuit of prevalent liberal-capitalist interpretations? In a cultural logic that favors the authority of individual experience, can the body of work operate independently of the body of the artist?

The works in *Benefit of the Doubt* address such questions through material critique that permeates the socioeconomic and historical circumstances of their production and reception. This exhibition wants to suggest that the untranslatable or vernacular in aesthetic experiences are not to be seen as a textual disadvantage but as a structural advantage harboring potential of transformative productivity.

Text by Franziska Sophie Wildförster