

Steven Warwick

*Winter Shift*

December 16, 2021 – April 24, 2022

*Vergiss Mich Nicht* – December 16, 2021, 7pm

*ISS MICH (A PIG'S HEAD ON A STICK)* – February 14, 2022, 7pm

*Urban Renewal* – April 17, 2022, 7pm

Not unlike Jack Torrance in Stanley Kubrick's 1980 horror movie "The Shining", the artist and writer Steven Warwick has agreed to take on the winter shift at Klosterruine. Between December and April, Warwick will maintain his theatrical installation, adding sculptures and intermittently appearing. A series of surreal social dramaturgical events, usually falling on holidays, will punctuate the shift, 3 small shows, eventually culminating in a performance play, setting the scene for delicious fictions and horrors so real they feel real.

In the *Winter Shift*, Warwick critically uses linguistic rhetoric prevalent in commercial advertising, political Jargon and everyday life, linking it to myths and fairy tales that purport to make sense of the transition from childhood to adulthood. Warwick addresses the significance of linguistic rhetoric for transforming our reality and informing our ideas of social progress. Though is it not more akin to cognitive behavioral therapeutics that like a band aid - or a neurolinguistic self deception tool - superficially assumes that the stories offered equate the solution of underlying tensions? Warwick uses the trope of the Uncanny, or double in artworks to confuse the narrative, to confront the self with mortality, largely obfuscated in advertising and replaced by a perpetual Peter Pan figure. The figure of the hut serves as a cultural archetype that promises sanctuary, a retreat and simultaneously a macabre site of committing atrocity (i.e. *Unabomber*, Heidegger, Hansel & Gretel). At Klosterruine, the hut has transformed from an xmas market into a mythical sweetie house where the child's danger speaks to a condition of being simultaneously at risk and liberated from the *Vater Staat*.

Curated by Christopher Weickenmeier

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