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OLAF METZEL

July 16 – September 30, 2017

mezzaterra11 – flat gallery is a conceptual project space that opens up new interpretations on documentation images of contemporary artworks, by creating meta-linguistic translation as a white cube is compressed to be flat. International artists are invited to present their work with one image that is selected, adapted and, ultimately, printed for the space, as a format of a solo show.

We are delighted to present our 9th artist Olaf Metzel (b. 1952, Berlin) who is one of most important German sculptors. Metzel usually focuses on sensitive and complex social, political issues such as racism, violence, economy or institutional power, using architectural construction practice and popular culture in his oeuvre distinguished with unique critiques and the formal aspects on provocative and controlled aesthetics. For *mezzaterra11 – flat gallery*, Metzel introduces an image of “trash can” (2016) in which he folds, bends and reshapes images that are printed onto both sides of an aluminum plate and makes it appearing as a wall sculpture, giving to a resistant material the illusion of the absent-minded crumpled paper which has been thrown away in the trash can. Furthermore it extends a linguistic tautological circle of inter-dimensional experiences in the context of ontological characteristics of the flat gallery.

Metzel had numerous solo exhibitions in Germany and abroad, as well as participated amongst others in documenta 8, Kassel (1987); Skulptur Projekte Münster (1987 and 1997); Sydney Biennial (1990); Istanbul Biennial (1995); Sao Paulo Biennial (2002); Neues Museum Nürnberg (2015); Neue Pinakothek, Munich (2016). Metzel’s prizes include the Villa Massimo Prize (Rome, 1987), the Arnold Bode Prize (Kassel, 1994), the Wilhelm Loth Prize (Darmstadt, 1997), the Lichtwark Prize (Hamburg, 2010), and the mfi Graduate Award (Essen, 2014). Public sculptures by Metzel can be seen in Germany, Europe, and Asia. He has curated many exhibitions – for example in 2006 as part of the Berlin Biennale – and published numerous contributions in newspapers and magazines. Metzel’s works are part of important private and public collections.

mezzaterra11 – flat gallery
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