

Bernhard Hegglin, *Herbst*, 01.09.–28.10.2023, Weiss Falk Zurich

Oskar Weiss and Oliver Falk are pleased to present *Herbst*, Bernhard Hegglin's first solo exhibition at the gallery. *Herbst*, i.e. *Autumn*, brings together two videos and three groups of works completed by the artist over the past three years. Hegglin's sculptures, paintings and animations, which are recontextualized by their new configurations and juxtapositions in the gallery space, address the affective impacts of images, objects and narratives as well as their influence on selective memory.

Hegglin's machine-made paintings are based on his animated short *Die Vögel*, i.e. *The Birds*, which is shown here on vacuum-formed pet TV displays that have been used by the artist several times before. In addition to new iterations of an ongoing series of push-puppet chairs, the exhibition also features three seats made of carpeting, entitled *Leave The Table*, *Lüthi und Blanc* and *Tarte Tatin...*

Tor·te, die  
/Tórtē/

Noun, feminine

Fine cake, usually made up of several layers, filled with cream or the like or topped with fruit and variously decorated, usually circular in shape (Italian *torta* < late Latin *torta* = round loaf, cake, of unknown origin)

While the German language distinguishes between “Kuchen” and “Torte”, and English between “pie” and “cake”, one word, “la torta”, covers both types of confections in Italian. A one-to-many denotative correspondence between language communities with divergent conventions regarding the designation of a concept. Layering is the decisive difference between the two in German. At what point can we agree to call a cake a *Torte*?

In Peter Bichsel's children's story *Ein Tisch ist ein Tisch* (i.e. *A Table Is a Table*), the protagonist makes up their mind to rebel against the monotony of everyday usage by radically renaming things. From now on, the table would be called carpet; they were tired and therefore would go to picture. Familiar objects soon come to seem strange to them, and they become so estranged from the ecology of the familiar that they end up sealing themselves off in a state of self-imposed lexical isolation. With their very private semantic word-thing-nomenclature, they end up defining themselves out of the conventional order of objects. It's a game of toying with the precarious, arbitrary relationship between signifiers and signifieds, and

with our supposedly habitualized collective concepts.

My father once told me about the time back in his twenties when he rented an apartment and the landlady insisted he carpet the floor – most likely to spare the herringbone parquet and the other tenants' sleep. It wasn't long till the carpeting began to look the worse for wear, so he simply laid another one on top of it. And once he'd started layering, he'd repeat the process whenever the carpet was soiled or he felt like putting things on a fresh footing. I can still remember his description: how he piled on one carpet after another, making the space around him smaller and smaller. To this day, I don't know whether the story is actually true, or slightly embroidered to amuse – or make fun of – gullible minds like mine. After how many layers he'd stop adding new carpets?

*This handout is a fragmentary compilation of associative reflections and questions that Bernhard Hegglin and I have encountered in our conversations.*

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*Leave The Table*, 2023  
Carpet



*Dream And Screen: Regurgitated  
Memories and Ruminated Narratives*,  
2022, PET, LED-TV, video



*Clouds in The Sky (Version 4)*,  
2023, Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Clouds in The Sky (Version 3)*,  
2023, Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Clouds in The Sky (Version 2)*,  
2023, Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Clouds in The Sky (Version 1)*,  
2023, Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Clouds in The Sky (Version 5)*, 2023  
Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Tarte Tatin*, 2023  
Carpet



11, 2023  
Stool, rope, cardboard, floor paint



6, 2023  
Stool, rope, cardboard



7, 2023  
Stool, rope, cardboard



9, 2023  
Chair, rope, cardboard



13, 2023  
Stool, rope, mdf, paint



14, 2023  
Stool, rope, mdf, paint



15, 2023  
Stool, rope, cardboard, paint



*Inside The Throat of a Bird  
(Version 1)*, 2023  
Acrylic, primer, mdf



8, 2023  
Chair, rope, cardboard



*Inside The Throat of a Bird  
(Version 3)*, 2023  
Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Inside The Throat of a Bird  
(Version 2)*, 2023  
Acrylic, primer, mdf



*Lüthi und Blanc*, 2023  
Carpet



*Dream And Screen: Die Vögel*,  
2023, PET, LED-TV, video