

GARAGE EXCHANGE: ***CHRISTOPH MEIER AND CHADWICK RANTANEN*** GARAGE EXCHANGE VIENNA—LOS ANGELES

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19 — SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 2025

VISITING HOURS: FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 11:00 AM — 5:00 PM

MACKEY APARTMENTS GARAGE TOP GALLERY, 1137 S COCHRAN AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA

There is no sound without space. In this exhibition, Christoph Meier and Chadwick Rantanen instrumentalize the exhibition site for its material resonance. The works frame and mirror the gallery, walking its perimeter and reflecting its activities. Here the Garage Top Gallery can be better viewed as a resonant chamber reverberating around the inconspicuous works concealed inside it.

Christoph Meier and Chadwick Rantanen both produce work using the gallery and exhibition as a site for intervention and negotiation. They incorporate the language of institutional critique while drawing in other subjects, like healthcare, hospitality, and commercial manufacturing. Independently, each has turned to sound in their practices as both subject and medium.

For this exhibition Meier produced untitled (*Hollywood*) (2025), a rectangular polished steel plate, playable by the viewer. Continuing his work with Grassmayr Bell Foundry, a 400 year old foundry in Innsbruck, Austria, untitled (*Hollywood*) acts as both a mirror and a portal in the exhibition space, with its delicate polished surface interrupted only by triangular cuts in the plate producing specific notes when sounded. The piece negotiates the visible and invisible, moving from a silent mirror blending into its surroundings to a sonorous vibrating mirage.

In *Changers* (2025), Rantanen continues his use of straightened coat hangers, brackets, and connectors, suffusing the space with seemingly improvised wire modules running along and punctuating the walls. The wire junctions both adhere to and corrupt the

orderliness of the space. The skeletal web-like forms function as an infrastructure for moving energy but are left inoperable. A collection of loose ends, abrupt and unfulfilled.

Garage Exchange: Christoph Meier and Chadwick Rantanen oscillates between explosion and calm, passing material qualities back and forth. A polished plate crashes and the guttural jangling of wires soon falls silent. Energy is captured in tension, channeling the machines toward unknown directions.

Christoph Meier (b. 1980, Vienna) studied architecture at the Vienna University of Technology and sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Glasgow School of Art. His internationally exhibited, installation-based work often engages with architectural and social spaces. Meier has participated in numerous exhibitions, including at the Museum of Applied Arts Vienna, Wiener Festwochen, Portland Institute of Art, Etablissement d'en face Brussels, and the Nam June Paik Art Center Seoul. He has presented solo exhibitions at venues such as Casino Luxembourg, Kiosk Gent, Kunstverein Hamburg, Kunsthaus Graz, and the Vienna Secession. Since 2009, Meier has co-published the artist fanzine BLACK PAGES with Ute Müller and Nick Oberthaler and, in 2016, co-founded the independent exhibition space Guimarães in Vienna. From 2019 to 2020, he was professor at the Institute of Art and Design at the Vienna University of Technology, where he now works as a senior artist at the Research Unit for

Three-Dimensional Design and Model Making. Recently Meier has realized Gills Bells, a large-scale carillon as a public artwork in Gilsdorf, Luxembourg.

Chadwick Rantanen (b. 1981, Wausau, WI) appropriates the forms of familiar consumer goods and modifies and re-contextualizes them into sculptural tools. Adapting and conforming to architecture and infrastructure, Rantanen's sculptures mimic installations or site-specific works, often taking the form of an adaptor, wedging between objects and their sources of power, articulating a web of accommodation, compromise, maintenance and parasitism by slightly detouring energy, but never causing harm. His solo exhibitions include Secession, Vienna, Austria; Museo Pietro Canonica, Rome, Italy; Standard (Oslo), Oslo, Norway; Essex Street, New York, New York; Overduin and Co., Los Angeles, California; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, Bel Ami, Los Angeles, California; CAPITAL, San Francisco, California.

ABOUT GARAGE EXCHANGE

Garage Exchange seeks to foster relationships, conversations and collaborations in the arts between Los Angeles and Austria. In order to expand the cultural exchange at the core of the Artists and Architects-in-Residence program, The MAK Center invites Austrian and Vienna-based alumni residents to collaborate with L.A. artists and architects of their choosing at the Garage Top at the Mackey Apartments for the Garage Exchange Vienna-Los Angeles exhibition series.

ABOUT MAK CENTER

The MAK Center for Art and Architecture is a contemporary, experimental, multi-disciplinary center for art and architecture headquartered

in three significant architectural works by the Austrian-American architect R.M. Schindler. Offering a year-round schedule of exhibitions and events, the MAK Center presents programming that challenges conventional notions of architectural space and relationships between the creative arts. The Center is headquartered in the landmark Schindler House (R.M. Schindler, 1922) in West Hollywood; operates a residency program and exhibition space at the Mackey Apartments (R.M. Schindler, 1939) and runs more intimate programming at the Fitzpatrick-Leland House (R.M. Schindler, 1936) in Los Angeles.

Founded in 1994, the MAK Center is a Los Angeles-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the California satellite of the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna. The core of the programming includes the internationally recognized MAK Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program, an annual residency program for emerging international artists and architects. The MAK Center works in cooperation with the Friends of the Schindler House (FoSH), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and maintain Schindler's Kings Road house in West Hollywood. Unique in its role as a constellation of historic architectural sites and contemporary exhibition spaces, the MAK Center develops local, national, and international projects exploring the intersection of art and architecture.

Garage Exchange: Christoph Meier and Chadwick Rantanen is curated by Seymour Polatin, Exhibitions and Programs Manager.

This exhibition is made possible with support from the Federal Ministry European and International Affairs Republic of Austria, the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles, and Bildrecht.

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Chadwick Rantanen
12 Changers
2025
Steel, metals

Chadwick Rantanen
6 Changers
2025
Steel, metals

Chadwick Rantanen
12 Changers
2025
Steel, metals

Chadwick Rantanen
3 Pedals
2025
Steel, metals

Christoph Meier
untitled (Hollywood)
2025
Stainless steel, steel, aluminum, felt

Chadwick Rantanen
10 Changers
2025
Steel, metals