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SI

MATHIS ALTMANN - FOUL MATTERS

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Swiss Institute is pleased to present the first institutional solo exhibition in the United States of Zurich-based artist Mathis Altmann.
For Foul Matters, Altmann has created a new series of sculptures, continuing his ongoing material excavation into the infrastructural 'guts' of urban spaces.
Altmann frequently works with concrete, as well as construction debris such as pipes and wires, to create rough-hewn architectural miniatures
that are nested with household objects relating to the management of order in human bodies – hygiene, sanitation, waste disposal.
Often fitted with peepholes and pinhole cameras for peering at the tiny rooms within, Altmann's contrast of interior and exterior narrates
a voyeuristic intimacy focused on the banal. At Swiss Institute, as though pulling out the insides of a building, Altmann has extracted
formal interior elements from former works, mounting models made of domestic objects, trash, building supplies and dollhouse furniture on the wall,
where they stand open without a protective enclosure. Accompanying the sculptures is a second-hand sofa, leaning against the wall to furnish the main part
of the exhibition space. Though doubtless already host to an array of microorganisms, here the base and cushions are covered with the exoskeletons of
thousands of mealworms. Functioning as stagnant, occupying vessels, the body casings conflate architecture and anatomy to inform a discursive motif:
stripped out shells with no insides.

Mathis Altmann: Foul Matters is the eighth exhibition in the ONE FOR ALL series at SI. Building on Swiss Institute's long history of providing a platform
for emerging artists, each show is the artist's first institutional solo exhibition in the United States, with a newly commissioned body of work specifically
created for the exhibition space.

