



## Mathis Altmann: *Foul Matters*

June 23 – July 24, 2016

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 daily management of 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 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.

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Mathis Altmann (b. 1987, Munich, Germany) studied at the Zurich University of the Arts and has received numerous awards such as the Prix Mobilière (2016) and the Swiss Art Award (2015). Recent solo exhibitions include *Marf Akkus*, Truth & Consequences, Geneva (2016); *The Sewager: Zwischen Krieg & Party*, Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg (2015); and *Psycho Bombs*, Freedman Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles, (2014). Recent group exhibitions include *YOUR MEMORIES ARE OUR FUTURE*, Palais de Tokyo with Manifesta 11, at ACRUSH AG, Zurich (2016); *Raw and Delirious*, Kunsthalle Bern (2015); *Chat Jet (Part2) Skulptur in Reflexion*, Halle für Kunst und Medien, Graz (2014); and *Holes in the Walls / Early Works 1948-2013*, Kunsthalle Freiburg (2013).

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## List of Works

Right to left, from entrance:

*YesVacancy*, 2016

Wood, cotton, glass, flies

31 ½ x 16 x 11 ¼ in

*Upper Class Fuckery*, 2016

Wood, miniatures, glass, cloth, plastic

16 x 15 ¾ x 10 ¼ in

*Domestic Waste Police*, 2016

Plastic, brass

15 x 11 x 20 inches

*LO\*KUS LAB*, 2016

Wood, sneaker, plastic, cotton, metal, paper, acrylic glass

18 ¾ x 11 ½ x 17 ½ in

*Neuigkeiten vom roten Teppich*, 2016

MDF, acrylic glass, metal, cloth, mouse-trap

13 ¼ x 11 ½ x 9 in

*T.P. Fair*, 2016

Wood, miniatures, plastic, cloth, brass

22 x 13 x 15 ¾ in

*Histoire de la merde*, 2016

Wood, miniatures, lightbulb, cloth, plastic, metal, paper

34 ¾ x 11 ½ x 8 ½ in

*Hygiene and Commerce*, 2016

Wood, acrylic paint

14 x 11 ½ x 10 ½ cm

Opposite wall:

*Untitled*, 2016

Sofa, mealworms, resin

78 ½ x 32 ½ x 34 in

All works courtesy the artist and Freedman Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles