

KRINZINGER SCHOTTENFELD · SCHOTTENFELDGASSE 45 · 1070 WIEN
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BERND OPPL
Phantom Power

Opening: May 23, 2024, 7 PM

Duration: May 24 – June 29, 2024

In Bernd Oppl's works for the exhibition "Phantom Power" several thematic and aesthetic threads converge, which have been present in the artist's work for some time. However, each convergence in this case is just another form of unravelling: Oppl's works – whether in the form of models, photographs, sound installations, or moving image works as projections and on displays – fundamentally deal with the uncertainty of perception in a world where the visible and audible are always material (magnetic tape, concrete, glass, the White Cube, etc.) and virtual at the same time, thus situating the world mostly in an uncanny intermediate space: present and absent, tangible and ephemeral, external and internalised, both all-encompassing and radically confined.

Is <Liquid Crystal> a work on a display, the work of the display, or – quite trivially – a broken display? And if it's the latter, can I be sure that the liquid cloud haunting the dry concrete of the room in <Water in my Eye> is not actually a projection error of the projector? Or am I, as the title suggests, looking at the inside of my eye, which is a tidy chamber that, on the one hand, processes light in motion and, on the other hand, must be constantly protected from drying out by organic fluids? Encountering these works through seeing and hearing always means entering these moving loops with thought and feeling, which describe something without ever fully fixing it. <Phantom Power> consists of three magnetic soundtracks, on which the artist has composed sound structures from dozens of noises emitted by optical apparatuses. The machines of seeing become sound producers, the sounds they generate in turn trigger three neon lamps whose colours together form the RGB spectrum. The instrument of seeing becomes sound, which in turn brings forth the visible; sensory channels mutate, disappear, and reappear, emphasising the interminability of this realisation in this looped movement.

The precise forms, the exhibited materialities, the delicate accuracy of the works suggest control, inviting one to linger in a sense of security, only to, once you engage with it, evoke aesthetic formations where one's own position and understanding of reality instantly become porous. <get in> deals with this moment of ambiguity that will never end: Again and again, I move through a square tunnel that traverses the concrete block in front of me, a tunnel that unsettles dimensions between viewer, object, and gallery space, actually present yet thoroughly virtual (recorded, mirrored, simulated).

Alejandro Bachmann (author, Prof. at Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Germany), on Bernd Oppl's exhibition "Phantom Power".

Bernd Oppl (born 1980 in Innsbruck, lives and works in Vienna, Austria). Bernd Oppl studied Painting and Graphics at the Art University in Linz and Video and – Installation Art at the Academy of fine arts in Vienna. He was awarded the advancement award for contemporary art of the county of Tirol in 2008, the RLB art price in 2012, the art price of the city Innsbruck 2015,

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the residency grant 2018 in Wiels (Brussels), the Austrian State-Grand for Fine Arts in 2019, the working-grand at the BANFF Center in Canada, 2021 and the Hilde Goldschmidt price, 2024.

EXHIBITIONS (selection):

Solo: POSTASPACE, Sofia, Bulgaria, (2024), Kunstraum 34, im Rahmen des Stuttgarter Filmwinters, Stuttgart, Germany (2024), Tørloft, Denmark (2022), Stereo Exchange, Denmark (2022), Lentos, Linz, Austria (2021), Kunsthalle Graz, Austria (2021), Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, Austria (2021), WIELS Projectspace, Brussels, Belgium (2019), Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2019), Kuiper Projects, Brisbane, Australia (2018), Galerie Schloss Wiespach, Hallein, Austria (2018), Kunstraum Goethestrasse, Linz (2015); Georgia Museum of Arts, USA; RLB Atelier, Linz; Amstel 41, Amsterdam (2014); artpartments, Vienna (2013); Neue Galerie, Innsbruck (2012); MQ - Artist Quarterly, Sotheby's, Vienna (2010); Kunstverein das weisse haus, Vienna (2009).

Group and solo exhibitions at Galerie Krinzinger include: Phantom Power, Krinzinger Schottenfeld, 2024 (S), AIR 2023, Krinzinger Schottenfeld, 2024 (G), Bernd Oppl – Brussels Works, Galerie Krinzinger, 2018 (S), Intermission, Galerie Krinzinger, 2016 (S), Spatial Distortion, Galerie Krinzinger, 2013 (S).

Works by Bernd Oppl are represented in the following collections: Ursula Blickle Video Archiv / Kunsthalle Wien, Artothek des Bundes, Wien Museum, Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz, Landesgalerie Linz, RLB Kunstbrücke Innsbruck, Sammlung der Stadt Innsbruck, Austrian and International Private Collections.