

Roman Gysin

Exhibition: 3 September – 30 October 2021

Really Rustic

Galerie Christian Lethert is delighted to show the first exhibition of Swiss sculptor Roman Gysin. *Really Rustic* combines wall objects with an installation by the artist which reflect his analysis of materiality and its possibilities of transformation as well as the fascination for decorative phenomena in everyday life and their potential for distinction.

A partition wall obstructs direct access to the exhibition space. The exhibition space can only be accessed by following the route defined by the artist where his wall installations are presented. The objects feature different techniques and materials and only the horizontal structure reoccurs in all his works as also in the way of hanging. Narrow wooden battens covered in lustrous satin fabric invoke contradictory associations with ventilation shafts and iridescent lady's blouses; coarsely chopped wooden beams covered with fabric have an effect like boulder walls; and the work, which leaves the wooden material visible, is draped with fine chiffon, suggesting folds reminiscent of the paintings of old masters.

Gysin plays masterfully with contradictions and polarities and this is also how the title of his exhibition *Really Rustic* should be conceived: It is worth questioning whether the attribution "rustic, robust, dignified" should be emphasized or merely exposed as an alleged attribution.

Roman Gysin, born in Möhlin, Switzerland in 1984, completed his studies at the Zurich University of the Arts as well as at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg. In addition to numerous exhibitions in Switzerland, his works have already been shown in Berlin, Hamburg, and at Torrance Art Museum in Los Angeles, USA. His Cahier d'Artiste, with which Pro Helvetia Swiss Arts Council promotes promising young artists, has just been published. Therein, Sylvain Menétrey aptly formulates, "The originality in Roman Gysin's work stems from a queer re-energizing of the polarities between art and decoration and their reconfiguration in an aesthetic exploration of tastes, values and social classes".

We are participating in the online edition of the New York artfair *The Armory Show* from September 9 until 12, 2021. During *Art Cologne*, we will inaugurate exhibitions featuring sculptor Gereon Krebber and painter Pius Fox on Friday, November 19, 2021. We would also like to draw your attention to the following Sigmar Polke exhibitions showing numerous loans from Kunstraum am Limes – Collection of Contemporary Art, Hillscheid: *Sigmar Polke: Dualism*, opening October 10, 2021 at Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie Regensburg and the exhibition *Productive Image Interference. Sigmar Polke and Artistic Perspectives Today*, anniversary exhibition by Anna Polke Foundation and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, can be seen from November 13 onwards.

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