

## CHRISTOPH EISENRING

Vereinzelte Ähnlichkeiten

30.08. – 13.10.2018

Galerie Wenger is pleased to open the new season with a solo exhibition of the up-and-coming Swiss artist Christoph Eisenring (\*1983 in Winterthur).

The artist's earlier and current works will be presented in a multifaceted overall show. Even the title "Isolated Similarities" is thought-provoking and a first indication of what awaits visitors to the exhibition.

Nothing in Christoph Eisenring's works is as it seems. Using minimal interventions, he suggests a reality to the viewer of his photographs, sculptures, and drawings that only turns out to be a deception of the senses on closer inspection. But if one accepts this, one is rewarded with a gain in knowledge. This is also the case in the exhibition "Isolated Similarities". Directly at the entrance on the left, the viewer is confronted with the work "Kreuz und Plus". A wall drawing that, seen from a distance, represents a plus sign consisting of two fine pencil lines. Seen from a close distance, a different picture emerges: the plus sign is bordered by another wafer-thin line and thus becomes the symbol of a cross. From a certain distance, the lines begin to "flicker" and the boundary between the two forms becomes blurred.

Christoph Eisenring's works captivate with their radical reduction in form and color. Nevertheless, his works are very sensual. The artist primarily uses black and white and their nuances. In addition, he prefers motifs in this coloring, such as a white egg. Iron ring always goes to the limit of the visible. He is interested in inconspicuous, everyday, even elementary things that have existed for ages and to which little attention is paid. For example, the invitation card to the exhibition shows the image of two elongated, separated black forms on a vertical line - it is the personal imprint of the artist's hand edge.

Eisenring uses various media, such as photography, silhouettes, drawings, impressions and plaster casts, with which he works in a minimalist manner. For the exhibition, the artist has created several small-format works, including "Knäuel", 2017, presented on a pedestal. What at first glance looks like a real white ball of string - you can see every thread in detail - is the result of an object previously cast in silicone. The viewer is confronted with a "reversal" of the original. The exciting thing about this is that the cord with its characteristics, formed into a ball, remains intact and can be felt by the viewer, even though it has long since been unwound and disappeared.

Another example of Eisenring's subtle hallucinations is the photograph "O'Eye". It shows a pearl in the middle of an oval frame, which in reality is a hen's egg photographed from above. Or the work "Thumbnail", 2017, which both irritates and amuses. Here, Eisenring made a clay impression of his left thumb and, while still soft, he carved it into the wall with a nail so that it deformed.

"What is a work of art? "How can it be defined? "And what does the artist think of it?"

Every work by Christoph Eisenring poses these fundamental questions. It requires the viewer to engage anew with each individual work and to question his own vision. This also succeeds with the installation "Island for Walter", 2018. The work, which is located in the cube at the back of the gallery, consists of a 160 x 160 cm chrome steel basin, inside a 12 cm high square filled with black ink. A plumb bob hangs from the ceiling, the metal tip of which disappears into the liquid. Only the hemisphere that closes the plumb bob remains visible. The work was created on the basis of the work "Der vertikale Erdkilometer" by the artist Walter de Maria for documenta 6, 1977 in Kassel. As with de Maria, Christoph Eisenring's work constantly eludes perception and forces the viewer to shift it into his own imagination.

Christoph Eisenring (\*1983 Winterthur) studied from 2005 to 2008 at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern and from 2011 at the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst in Basel, where he graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in 2013. Since 2007 his works have been presented in various national and international group and solo exhibitions. In 2017, the artist received the Manor Art Prize of the Canton of Zurich for his work, followed by a solo exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur. His works are represented in various national and international collections. Christoph Eisenring lives and works in Winterthur and Schaffhausen.