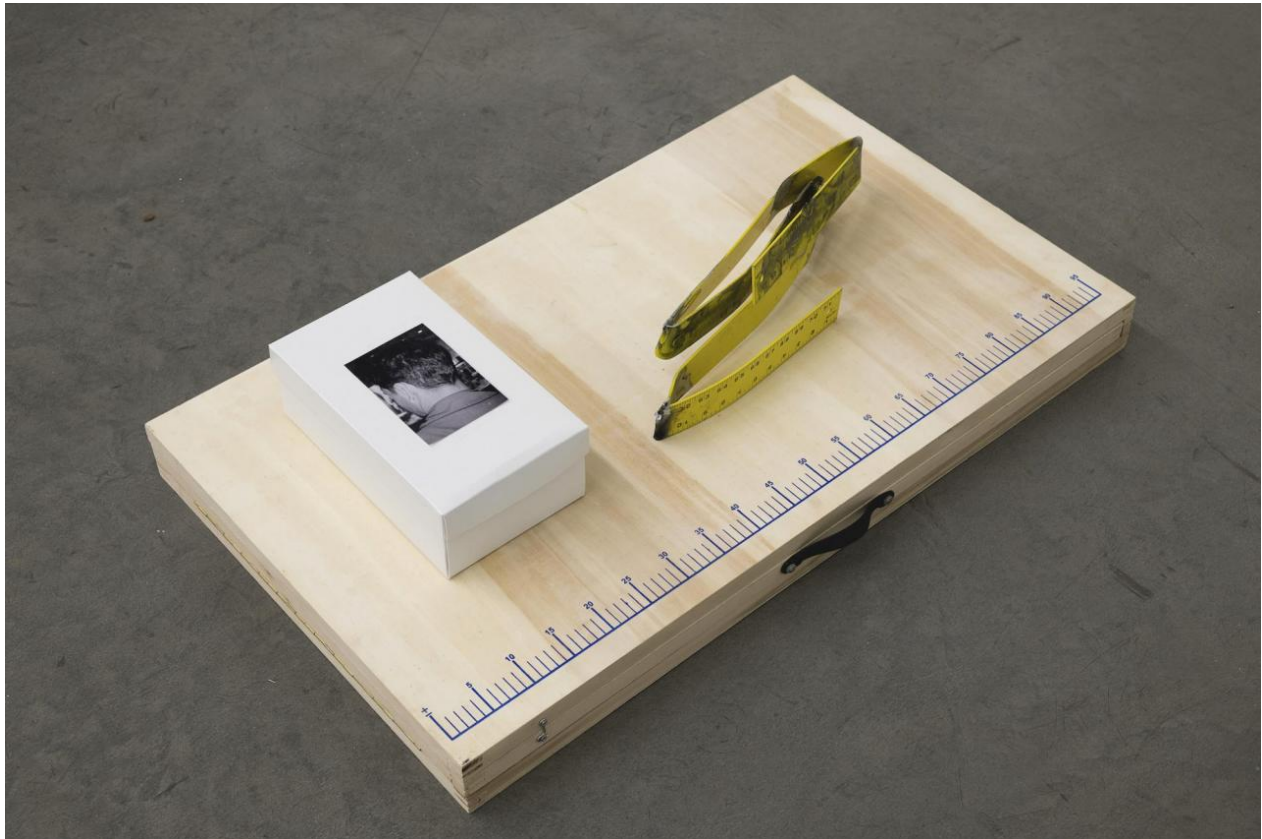


Gallery Weekend Berlin 2021

spikeartmagazine.com

21. September 2021

by Isabella Zamboni



A weekend so nice, they held it twice. This year, Berlin’s galleries rallied for a second, autumnal edition of the exhibition series, with several outposts sharing a thematic focus on new discoveries. Spike editor Isabella Zamboni, a newly-minted Berlin transplant by way of Milan, honed her sense of direction by exploring Gallery Weekend 2021.

ChertLüdde

Robert Rehfeldt

“Denken Sie jetzt bitte nicht an mich (Please do not think of me now)”

17 September – 30 October 2021

The “new man” is a hysterical promise. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Robert Rehfeldt (1931–1993) mostly made excited paintings. *Yes* (1992) disseminates two YESs and one I LIKE, apparently yelled by the two phallic heads, thick like reliefs, at the centre of the volcanic paste-like surface. There is an IT that follows the I LIKE, struck through – is it THE COUNTRY BOY appearing on the other edge of the canvas? Before the Wall fell, Robert Rehfeldt sent mail art from the GDR all over the world. In the postcard that gives

its title to ChertLüdde's exhibition, he still has some hope of escaping the lure to be in the forefront – the new man in the confessional turn. After #maincharacterenergy, yes, we do think of you, Robert Rehfeldt.



Schiefe Zähne
Phung-Tien Phan
“Stop Dreaming”

10 September – 14 October 2021

The fantasy of escaping from domestic labour smells like ironing went revolutionary wrong. Ironic or not, Phung-Tien Phan (*1983) burned laundry to the point of forming letters (TRIP and LETS) and pierced dining tables (or are they office desks?) with circular saws. Triplets or let's trip? Is the dream of the good life just cruel optimism? It turns out that trauma theory is not useful. When crisis itself is ordinary, everyone must have their unexceptional coping mechanism to deal with the codes of family and leisure – and just stop dreaming.



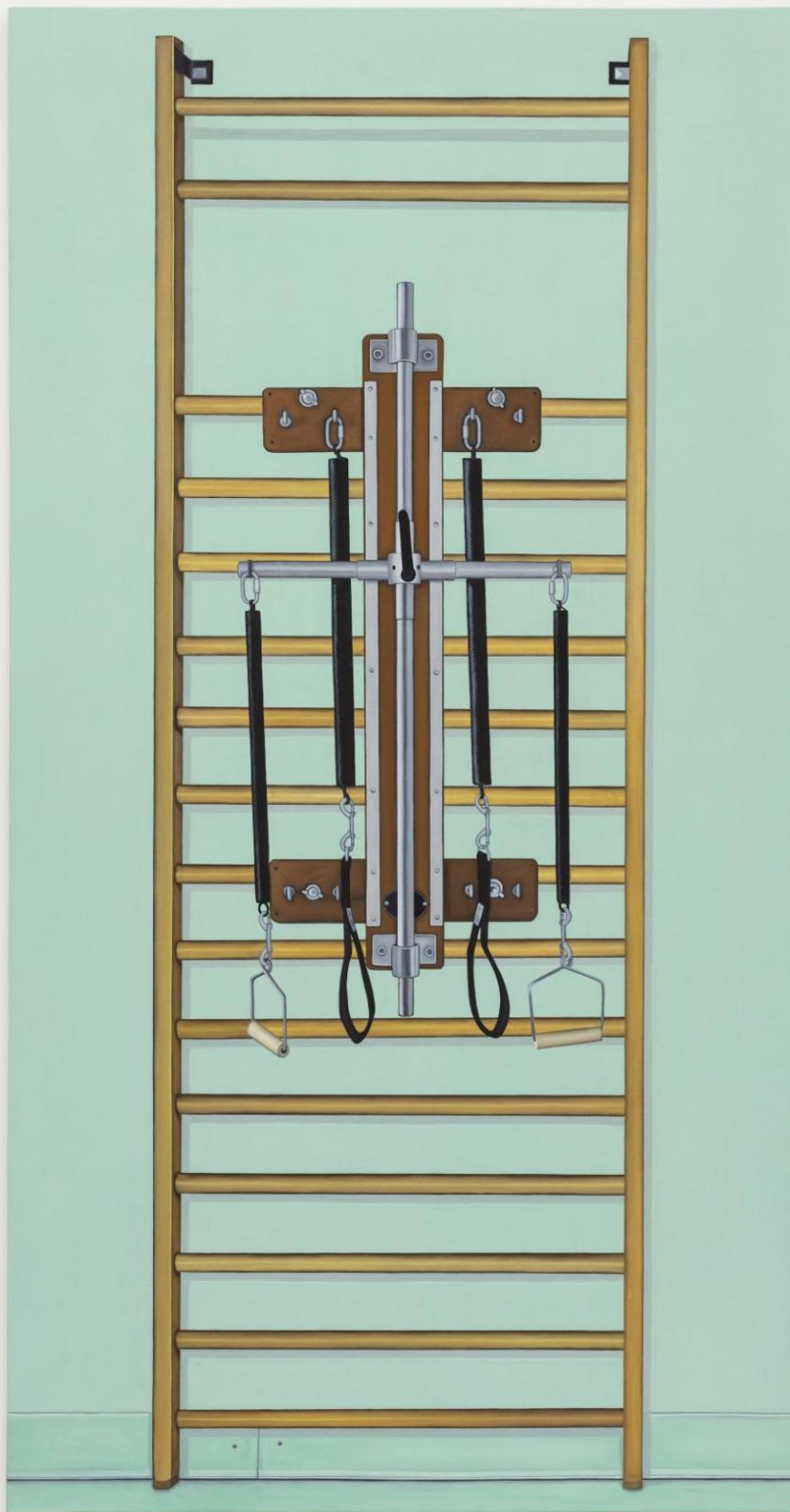
Galerie Neu

Win McCarthy

“Ruler”

11 September – 23 October 2021

There are only men's shoes on the floor of Galerie Neu. And they are worn, which is how Win McCarthy's (*1986) questions about how to measure and who measures feel, at first – old hat (shoes?). And yet, in the compulsion, there's something critical. The scattered installation is made of categorising devices taken mainly from schoolbooks and discount store leaflets – Europe is a land “full of castles”; triangles are black, like magic; Netto is “a place with three times more flavor”. Metal and wooden rulers compose the coordinates on the floor, lending the show its title. Amidst the apparent paternalism (*rulers rule with daddy's shoes*, thank you!), we can find a stand, as we see human figures cut out from group photos, obsessive lists of friends' names, McCarthy's selfies hidden in shoe boxes, and toddler toys all over. Asking what identity is can be a boyish act that reveals your interpersonal topography (and privilege), and it's okay to admit it.



Sweetwater,

Christopher Aque

“A void”

15 September – 30 October 2021

Sex is a laborious attempt at symmetry. Christopher Aque’s (*1987) sculpture is composed of two identical basins, water flowing from one half into the other, sanitised by a germicidal UV-C bulb. On the walls, six diptychs compare one voyeuristic photograph of a man’s body to an image of water in motion; all were made using the arduous process of gum bichromate printing, which requires the same UV-C bulbs that appear in the work. Can two bodies make one? Jacques Lacan says no. “There is no such thing as a sexual relationship”, he tells us, because (the effort notwithstanding) it is a forced balance, an imaginary fullness. Pleasure has to flow unidirectionally, as a One without the Other.



Captain Petzel

“Joe Bradley – Tobias Pils”

15 September – 23 October 2021

Tobias Pils (*1971) is obsessed with horses. He says he is not interested in storytelling, but he is probably a fan of allegory, as the titles of his newest paintings suggest. And his compulsive black-and-white palette recalls numismatics. In *The Fall* (2021), a faceless man falls off his horse, frowned upon by a large coin with too many mouths. *The*

Juggling (2021) features disproportionate seniors and children dancing, surmounted by a horse suspended in the sky, as others sleep on (more) horses perched on a hill that is half vegetal, half made of crania. The animals are all skeletal or metaphysical, and humans are naked, equally cadaverous. Who cares for whom, who subjugates whom, who is worshipped and who prays are not questions to be asked. That's probably why Joe Bradley (*1975) responds to Pils's parable with brightly-coloured geometric formations – only the faintest evocations of forms. They hint at humans, or robotic figures, or maybe, horses.



Esther Schipper

Cemile Sahin

“It Would Have Taught Me Wisdom”

16 September – 30 October 2021

The Treaty of Sèvres was signed in 1920 in an exhibition room of the Parisian suburb’s famed porcelain factory. And in front of one statue did the chairmen of the World War I Allies and of the Ottoman Empire sign the document: goddess Minerva sitting enthroned. Cemile Sahin (*1990) is preoccupied with the goddess in that room; with how symbols and politics interface. According to Marxist historian Eric Hobsbawm, the Treaty, which reorganised Europe into nation-states along ethnic lines, provided a justification for the genocides that subsequently swept the continent. How is the goddess of wisdom and strategic warfare; the token of justice, law, and victory; the sponsor of arts, trade, and strategy, to be accounted for? People stopped toppling statues (for now), but Sahin is right in fixating on symbols’ central place in combat – then and now.



Gallery Weekend Berlin

16 – 18 September 2021

ISABELLA ZAMBONI is an editor at Spike. She lives in Berlin.

Discourse



The Downward Spiral: 34th Bienal de São Paulo

Dean ditches New York for warmer climes to preview this year's Bienal de São Paulo, where the plants are plentiful and the glare of backlit screens, blessedly scarce.

**Send /
Receive**

**Global research
and communications**

+49 170 473 7129

www.sendreceive.eu

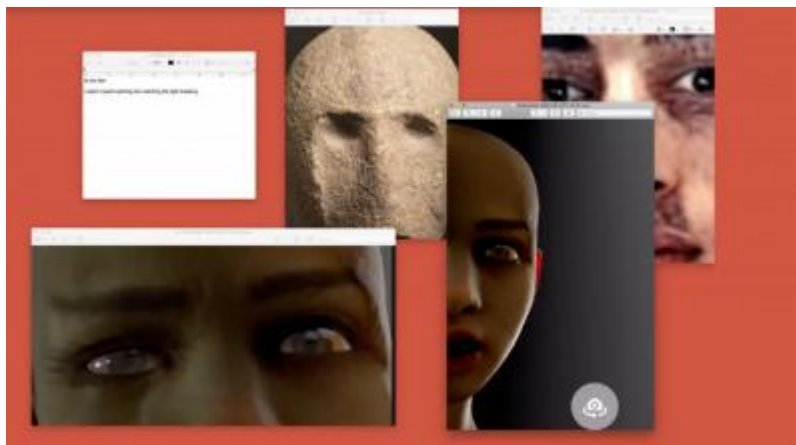
Discourse



Out of State

It's September. When the kids go back to school, what do the adults return to? Tradition? Seasonal basics? Cyberstalking like it's the early aughts? Natasha Stagg reflects on summer's wind-down for the final Out of State of 2021.

Views



"May amnesia never kiss us on the mouth" at Dia Art Foundation Online

Collecting a decade's worth of digital fragments for their ongoing net art project, two Palestinian artists splice, sample, and superimpose new modes of memory from the ephemera of online life.

Discourse



Out of State

In lieu of this year's New York Fashion Week, Natasha Stagg gets a front row seat to the weird pet parade.

**FOLLOW
US
ON
INSTAG-
RAM**

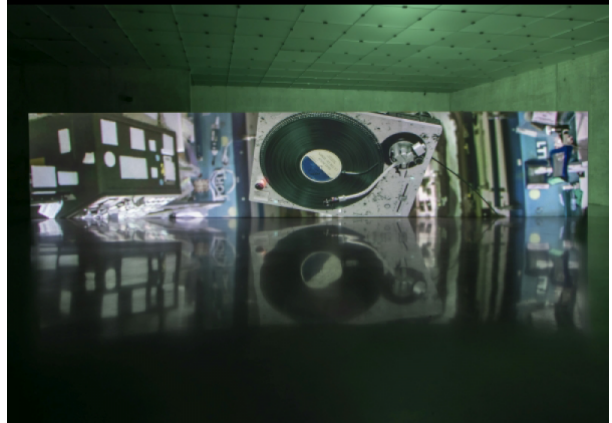
SPIKE X GALLERY WEEKEND



**GALLERY WEEKEND
BERLIN *DISCOVERIES
16 – 18 SEPTEMBER**

KUB

**KUB 2021.03
ANRI SALA
17 JULY – 10 OCTOBER**





People



Franz Josef Altenburg (1941-2021)

Remembering a landmark Austrian sculptor who shaped modern aesthetics with his own two hands.

Discourse



Out of State

Why does film – an art form built on stardom, visual pleasure, and control – have such a persistent sexual misconduct problem? It's an industry full of either monsters or geniuses, depending on who you ask.

Views



Noise in the Dark: A Conversation on Xper.Xr

"Tailwhip" shows off (occasionally bloody) ephemera from Xper.Xr's three decades of activity in the industrial noise music and anti-art realms, offering a rare window into Hong Kong's poorly-documented underground scene.

Views



Sunday Open featuring Mies in Mind

Berlin, we've got your weekend plans sorted! Celebrate the Neue Nationalgalerie's reopening with a Mies-van-der-Rohe-flavoured programme at venues across the city.

Discourse



Out of State

With an uptick in breakthrough cases and breakups, what's left in New York? The shambles of the Astor Place Kmart, some piecemeal conspiracy theories about who controls it all – models, probably – and the Friends Experience (not to be confused with *having friends*).

Discourse



The Downward Spiral: March '20 through August '21

New York is going through a renaissance; a golden age for contrarians, Catholics, and chimera-denialists. On the occasion of his first trip outside the city in a year and a half, Dean Kissick reflects on all that's happened in the interim.

"My works are the most sincere and tragic things I have done in life"

"If I tell you I have to kill you with my laser vision"



Discourse



The Downward Spiral: 34th Bienal de São Paulo

Dean ditches New York for warmer climes to preview this year's Bienal de São Paulo, where the plants are plentiful and the glare of backlit screens, blessedly scarce.

Send / Receive

**Global research
and communications**

+49 170 473 7129

www.sendreceive.eu

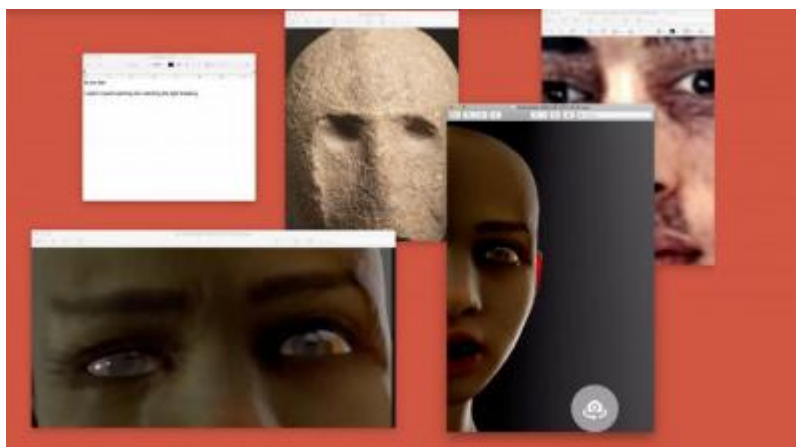
Discourse



Out of State

It's September. When the kids go back to school, what do the adults return to? Tradition? Seasonal basics? Cyberstalking like it's the early aughts? Natasha Stagg reflects on summer's wind-down for the final Out of State of 2021.

Views



"May amnesia never kiss us on the mouth" at Dia Art Foundation Online

Collecting a decade's worth of digital fragments for their ongoing net art project, two Palestinian artists splice, sample, and superimpose new modes of memory from the ephemera of online life.

Discourse



Out of State

In lieu of this year's New York Fashion Week, Natasha Stagg gets a front row seat to the weird pet parade.

**FOLLOW
US
ON
INSTAG-
RAM**

SPIKE X GALLERY WEEKEND

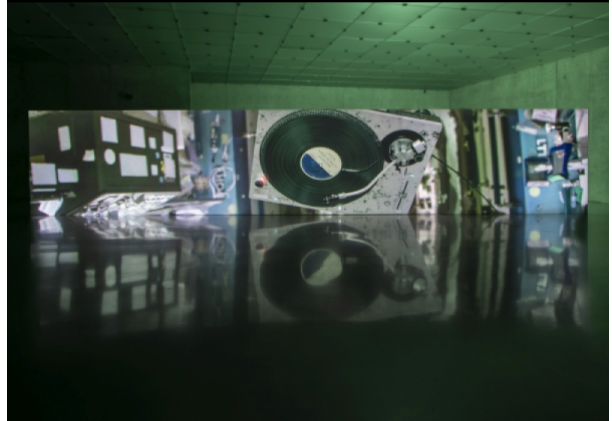


all in De
nce and
the acou
revised
chism
Him
of States
all a ques

**GALLERY WEEKEND
BERLIN *DISCOVERIES
16 – 18 SEPTEMBER**

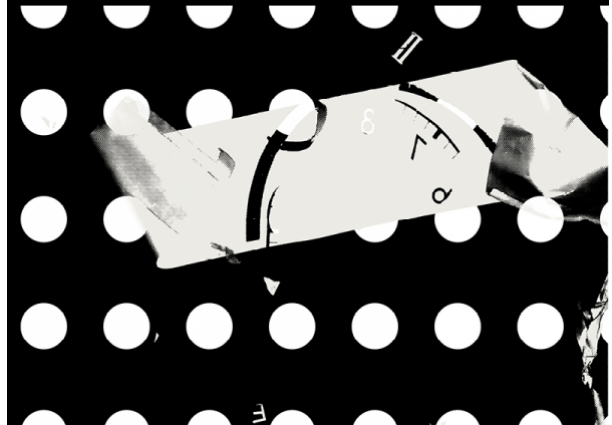
KUB

**KUB 2021.03
ANRI SALA
17 JULY–10 OCTOBER**



**Kunsthalle
Zürich**

**LORENZA LONGHI
12 JUNE–5 SEPT**



People



Franz Josef Altenburg (1941-2021)

Remembering a landmark Austrian sculptor who shaped modern aesthetics with his own two hands.

Discourse



Out of State

Why does film – an art form built on stardom, visual pleasure, and control – have such a persistent sexual misconduct problem? It's an industry full of either monsters or geniuses, depending on who you ask.

Views



Noise in the Dark: A Conversation on Xper.Xr

"Tailwhip" shows off (occasionally bloody) ephemera from Xper.Xr's three decades of activity in the industrial noise music and anti-art realms, offering a rare window into Hong Kong's poorly-documented underground scene.

Views



Sunday Open featuring Mies in Mind

Berlin, we've got your weekend plans sorted! Celebrate the Neue Nationalgalerie's reopening with a Mies-van-der-Rohe-flavoured programme at venues across the city.

Discourse



Out of State

With an uptick in breakthrough cases and breakups, what's left in New York? The shambles of the Astor Place Kmart, some piecemeal conspiracy theories about who controls it all – models, probably – and the Friends Experience (not to be confused with *having friends*).

Discourse



The Downward Spiral: March '20 through August '21

New York is going through a renaissance; a golden age for contrarians, Catholics, and chimera-denialists. On the occasion of his first trip outside the city in a year and a half, Dean Kissick reflects on all that's happened in the interim.

"My works are the most sincere and tragic things I have done in life"

"If I tell you I have to kill you with my laser vision"

21. 9. 2021

Gallery Weekend Berlin 2021