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Manfred Pernice

estrel-docx

22.11.2025 - 24.01.2026

estrel-docx is a solo presentation by Manfred Pernice at Galerie Neu, taking this year's milestone anniversary of the documenta as its occasion. The work *ESTREL; quattro stagioni* from 2002 was conceived for documenta 11 in Kassel and was later shown at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. The frontal side of the construction – which initially appears monolithic – appositely reflects the title as a form of the standardised international hotel architecture of turn-of-the-millennium globalization. In contrast, the four seasons also invoked in the title are understood as an “emerging + fading”, as a process of gradual decay, and as a “glimpse behind the scenes”. The sculpture is made up of nested truncated pyramids which are conceived as solid structures, yet in their sequence they remain porous, brittle, and seemingly incomplete.

Olafur Panoni

The “Estrel Berlin” is Europe's largest hotel, entertainment and convention complex, and thus a significant example of the event architecture and consumption-oriented urbanity of the aughts. The geometry of the construction (as well as a video fragment of the original version) simultaneously references “Die Pyramide” in Berlin-Marzahn (a district that, during the GDR era, was regarded as an archetype of socialist urban planning). Financed through early post-unification investment funds, this nineties office building, with its distinctly illuminated facade, was once celebrated as Europe's largest digital clock. Through this interplay of industrial and postmodern references, Pernice reflects on the carefully orchestrated systems that shape our patterns of consumption.

Since the early 1990s, Pernice has developed a distinctive artistic language oriented towards architecture, civil engineering, packaging and transport systems. His structures made of particleboard, metal, concrete or cardboard combine references to urban infrastructure with a special interest on how objects can be presented, organised and stored within spaces – operating for instance as modular components of broader infrastructure.

ESTREL; quattro stagioni, 2002
mixed media
302 x 302 x 540 cm