Galerie Buchholz

Neven-DuMont-Str. 17 · 50667 Köln
Tel +49-221-257 49 46
Fax +49-221-25 33 51
post@galeriebuchholz.de
www.galeriebuchholz.de

Yair Oelbaum

Cowlick

5 November 2026 - 9 January 2027

A single nail extends over a blistered, worn spot of exploded porcelain flanked by some glistening pink clovers, leaning forward on a faint trace of hairy, wrinkled margin.

Description stimulates or stifles, sometimes both simultaneously.

In photographic capture, detail is always lost in the distillation from three to two dimensions. Other detail is thereby invented as the lens interprets its gaze.

I've long photographed small, ambiguous objects and detritus. Their ambiguity was essential to their appeal to me. Their methods of capture were particularly bent on distorting and rewriting details.

The photographs shown here use more descriptive techniques, resisting my instinct to further obfuscate or re-cast my photographic subjects. Enhanced scrutability curbs their expansive capacity but also serves as a restraint, preserving something closer to the objects' true spirit.

The subjects are seen on the way, in passing. Maybe assembled in that way for quite some time or just for the depicted instant. On this particular day, they seem to stand with unforeseen pride for their portrait, despite not quite knowing what they're doing there. In sunken and raised stances, they (try to) filter out extraneous notions of being.

A town you only seem to pass through on the way home on foggy nights.

The inner, inner pocket fold has a confusing iridescent sheen…and why shouldn't it?

Y.O.

Cowlick is the second solo exhibition of Yair Oelbaum with Galerie Buchholz, his first in Germany. It consists of 9 exposures composed of multiple pieces of sheet film printed as distinct prints and taped together. It builds on the artist's previous experiments with macro photography, dental cameras, and Polaroid and film manipulation/adaptation.

Yair Oelbaum (b.1988, New York) has been making macro (close up) photos since 2014. Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König published his first collection of photos, *Asleep in Dirt,* in 2024, which included many photos taken with an outdated dental Polaroid camera thrown away by his father. In 2025 he had his first solo exhibition at Galerie Buchholz in New York, *Teiku*, consisting of photos taken with the same camera through modified means. Recent solo exhibitions include *In the Hopper,* Aléa, Pantin, France, and *Asherah*, at Studio 35 Minutes, Tokyo.