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## **Ján Mančuška**

*Oppression Born from an Initial Figment*  
10.03. – 08.04.2017

Meyer Riegger is pleased to present Ján Mančuška's fifth solo exhibition in the gallery, the third one after his premature death in 2011.

The exhibition presents a key work that has previously been shown at East Bound, Arthena Foundation, Kai10 Düsseldorf; *Windows Upon Oceans - Dystopian Realms/Idyllic Meadows* at the 8th Baltic Contemporary Art Biennale, National Museum in Szczecin, Poland and Karin Guenther Galerie, Hamburg

Comprising five finely constructed objects, the installation *Oppression Born from an Initial Figment* illustrates the tale of a couple's date with destiny. Composed of black and white film strips that are an often used medium in Mančuška's oeuvre, which are here spiraling on webs of string, each sculpture's light-box background illuminates carefully blocked and plotted point-of-view images. A shoe, the hem of a skirt, a deserted street, a shadow on a staircase, a ceiling light-fixture, broken crockery spread across a kitchen floor. Like the storyboard of a motion picture, the carefully crafted narrative tells us what we see, what we expect to see but eventually don't see, and interweaves perspectives and individual perceptions of the storyteller, the protagonists and the viewer, by assuming that those three can be told apart. But can they? The visual assumptions and the imaginative power of the narrative are being questioned as we follow the story which unfolds towards the female protagonists mysterious duplication.

The double and the reflection not only of people but also of places are an often recurring figure in the work of Ján Mančuška, duplicating reality or the appearance of the other.

Which is also the case in the work „The Painting Vol VII“ opposite the installation of filmstrip sculptures. In its reflective surface the empty film frame allows the outside to fill the void.

See also: Havranek, Vit, in <http://www.centrevox.ca/en/exposition/jan-mancuska/> and Rick Butler in: *Windows upon Oceans, dystopian realms/idyllic meadows*, 8th Baltic Contemporary Art Biennale, National Museum in Szczecin, Poland.

Ján Mančuška's (\*1972 Bratislava, † 2011 Prague) works are currently on view at Centre Vox, Montreal Canada and have recently been exhibited in a major traveling retrospective at Prague City Gallery, Prague, 2015, Kunsthalle Bratislava, Bratislava, 2015, Moravian Gallery, Brno, Czech Republic, 2016, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland, 2016

Further solo exhibitions: *Against Interpretation*, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, 2010. *Only Those Wild Species That Appeal to People Will Survive*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, 2008. *Southwest Pillar and its Shadow at the Beginning of the Novel*, tranzitdisplay, Prague, 2008. *Sorry for Being so Late*, West London Projects, London, 2007. *Home Alone*, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, 2005.