

Toby Ziegler
The Cheat

Goethestrasse 2/3, Berlin

28 April – 3 June 2017
Opening: 28 April, 6–9 pm

Gallery Weekend Berlin
28 – 30 April 2017

Artist Talk: Toby Ziegler
29 April 2017



Toby Ziegler, *Smoking mirror*, 2017
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin | Paris

Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to announce the exhibition *The Cheat* with new works by **Toby Ziegler** in Goethestrasse 2/3.

In his artistic practices, Toby Ziegler is interested in the relation between an object, its image and the space in which it exists. The (digital) circulation of images, and in particular the reproduction of artworks, as well as the loss of information that can occur during their successive transmissions and transformations, is a subject at the heart of his work.

In his fourth solo exhibition with Galerie Max Hetzler, Ziegler presents a new body of work that considers the human predisposition to look for pattern and meaning when confronted by apparent chaos. A group of eight paintings, two sculptures and a two-channel video take a google image search of French 17th Century painter Georges de La Tour as a starting point, focussing in particular on his paintings *The Fortune-Teller* from 1630, *The Cheat with the Ace of Diamonds* and *Job Mocked by his Wife*, around 1650.

The video examines the shortcomings of image recognition software and the moments when figurative images become unintelligible to the computer. Ziegler uploads collaged versions of *The Fortune-Teller* and feeds them into an online similar image search. The wide array of partly abstruse results range from pizzas to war-porn.

An analogy can be drawn between this blurring of meta-data, and the relationship between figuration and abstraction in Ziegler's recent paintings. Over a period of weeks or months, the artist carefully paints images after the figurative reference. He then overpaints and treats the surface – with a cloth while the paint is still wet or with an orbital sander when it is already dry – to the brink of obliteration and reveals the aluminium underneath. A mere fraction of the actual image information remains and paintings that only remotely remind of their original source emerge.

The title of the exhibition refers on the one hand to the subject of Georges de La Tour's paintings, who captured moments of trickery within his works, on the other hand it emphasizes a sense of alienation and uncertainty associated with today's digital image distribution.

At the same time, Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to present an exhibition with works by **Günther Förg** in Bleibtreustrasse 45 as well as the show *Spirits and Ancestors*, curated by Jonathan Hope.

Toby Ziegler was born 1972 in London, where he lives and works. He has participated in several solo and group exhibitions at institutions, such as The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield; New Art Centre, Salisbury (both 2014); Galerie Belvedere, Vienna; Stavanger Art Museum, Stavanger (both 2012); New Art Gallery, Walsall; Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki (both 2010); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2010); The State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg; The Saatchi Gallery, London (2009-2010); Tate Britain, London (2007); Le Plateau, Paris (2006); Le Consortium, Dijon (2005). His work is featured in major private and public collections including the British Council, London; Tate Britain, London; Hudson Valley Centre for Contemporary Art, Peekskill; Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris and Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania.

Further exhibitions, events and fair participations:

20 April 2017

Artist Talk André Butzer, Tamina Amadyar,
Christian Malycha and Cornelius Tittel
Galerie Max Hetzler @ Kurfürstendamm 213

26 – 29 April 2017

Art Cologne

28 April – 3 June 2017

Opening: 28 April, 6–9 pm

Günther Förg

Bleibtreustrasse 45, Berlin-Charlottenburg

28 April – 3 June 2017

Opening: 28 April, 6–9 pm

Spirits and Ancestors curated by Jonathan Hope

Bleibtreustrasse 45, Berlin-Charlottenburg

29 April 2017

Artist Talk Toby Ziegler

Goethestrasse 2/3, Berlin-Charlottenburg

4 May – 3 June 2017

Opening: 4 May, 6–8 pm

Liz Larner

57, rue du Temple 75004 Paris

Press contact:

Galerie Max Hetzler

presse@maxhetzler.com

Berlin: +49 30 346 497 85-0

Paris: +33 1 57 40 60 80

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