

## ANTONIS PITTAS *ABSTAND*

September 8 – October 13, 2018  
Opening September 8, 5-7pm



Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents *Abstand*, the second solo-show by Antonis Pittas (1973, Athens, lives and works in Amsterdam) with the gallery.

Inside as opposite of outside. You as opposite of me. There is always a distance in contrapositions and it's where Antonis Pittas' practice sharply operates.

The German word *abstand* suggests both distance as spacing and distance as withdrawal. In Pittas' work words are experienced performatively, *abstand* therefore becomes a territory in which to investigate the underlying tensions in contemporary society.

In the immersive and surreal light emanating from the reflective wall that runs the length of the gallery, the viewers find themselves echoed in the aluminium and bronze sculptures cast from oversized truck wing mirrors. The atmosphere of hyper-modernism indicated in the main space is overturned in the Bakery, where enigmatic photographs create a choreography between abstract and figurative, industrial and human.

As an observer of his time, Pittas' research converges in a keen sensibility towards news media, an interest in civic architecture and public space, alongside an informed use of art historical references. Elements from diverse media and languages are filtered and translated into minimal hand-crafted objects with concrete presence and tactile magnetism.

In *Abstand*, aspects from the language of traffic management are extrapolated and displaced, from the outside to the inside. As transitional spaces, roads are overlooked in our daily lives, while through a series of symbols our behaviours are silently decoded and directed, boundaries are created.

Pittas imagines a setting behind the glossy façade which addresses our contemporary societal issues of being both the controlling and the controlled subjects, growing ever more distant from each other. Although strongly consistent with his line of work, *Abstand* marks a new chapter in Antonis Pittas' poetics and aesthetics.

Antonis Pittas studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts, the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam and at the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam. Amongst his most recent exhibitions: De Appel, Amsterdam, Kunsthalle Praha & Festival M3 / Art in Space, Prague, (2018), Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp (2017), Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art (2015), Bozar, Brussels (2014), Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam (2013), 4th Athens Biennale, Athens (2013), Hessel Museum of Art & CSS Bard Galleries, Annandale, New York (2012), Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven (2011). Pittas also holds a position as a teacher at the Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam and has been a guest teacher at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague, Royal Danish Academy of Fine arts, Copenhagen and the Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam. His work has been collected by the Van Abbe Museum, ING and Nederlands bank collections and Dimitri Daskalopoulos among others. In 2019 he will be artist in residence at the Van Doesburg studio-house, Paris.

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