

## Sies + Höke Galerie

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**Press release**  
**Okey-Dokey III - Fenster**  
**David Medalla**

July 5 – August 24, 2019, Opening: Wednesday, July 5, 6-9pm

David Medalla (b. 1942, Manilla, Philippines) has always maintained a slippery and unstable connection with structures and conventions, including those of the avant-garde, the lineage under which his practice is inscribed. His works, across kinetic art and performance tend to have atomic beginnings, starting intimate and small and then growing organically to monumental proportions. The pieces in this presentation, spanning drawing, painting and sculpture, share a mode of quietness and contemplation. They are formulated across portraiture, sceneries and objects, moving between the epic, the mundane and their interconnection. This is the case of his 'Sand Machine', a kinetic work, being both a contemplation of time and continuity and a pleasurable play with sand, shells, stones and movement. A kineticism formulated around the attraction towards stable and unstable units. His painting, *The Fifth Painting in the 'Luz. Vi. Minda. series 1986!*, is a tranquil scene of encounter between a young man and a host of fishes, one which teeters on the edge of animal and spirit. Within this selection of work, spanning from the late 1960s until the present, there is a continuous strand of both the spirituality or, in the words of Medalla, "cosmic unity" that permeates his works, and something much smaller and lived, with humour, experience and autobiography.

David Medalla's presentation at Sies + Höke is part of *Fenster*, an exhibition unfolding over nine venues across Cologne and Düsseldorf, with work by Medalla, Zoe Barcza, Rachal Bradley, Linda Christanell, Hildegard Duane, Christian Flamm, Eva Löfdahl, Soshiro Matsubara, Zbigniew Rybczyński, Alan Stanners and Issy Wood, forming an interconnected dialogue across both cities. *Fenster* draws together practices that intersect with ideas of spectatorship, voyeurism, consumerism and their relationship to the body as a site of exhibition - strands and ways of seeing that loop back in the individual works and their interrelationships.

*Fenster* is co-curated by Fatima Hellberg and Steven Cairns  
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