



Sofie Švejdová | Andreas Schmitten  
Curator: Lumír Nykl  
Jiri Svestka Gallery  
Janáčkovo nábřeží 5, 150 00 Praha 5  
September 18 – November 19, 2019

The joint exhibition of Sofie Švejdová and Andreas Schmitten fills the gallery space with antiseptically elaborated "furniture", "tailoring" or microarchitectonic hybrids that clash with the painted scenes of the flow of body fluids and their pictorial capture. The acknowledged unreliability of the painter's grid and the deflected "pictures in pictures" contrast with the rational arrangement and balanced composition.

In the long run, Sofie Švejdová's work has been spilling over between the praxis of concealing the meaning in abstract gestures and the subliminal desire to tell intimate stories, to show the overlooked and to reveal the hidden. The new series of paintings follows the "serial" logic and shows an altered approach compared to the previous "series". It is based mainly on building tension through creation of spaces, torsos of characters and fragments of stories, instead of the previously prevalent layering of forms and clashes of forms. Internal humor can suddenly turn into a sinister message, as repeated watching of a film sequence helps to discover a previously unrecognized rhythm and accentuates what was previously hidden in a blind spot or a simple sequence of events. Sofia Švejdová's new "series" of paintings at first glance represents a unified plot. Her finely hinted story lines and spatial relationships within the paintings are confronted with contrasting objects by Andreas Schmitten, whose drawings, on the other hand, physically present some situations sketched by Sofie Švejdová.

Andreas Schmitten's works, built in a scenographic manner, include both consumer and luxury items giving up practicality in favor of creating their own fictional worlds. Considerations as to whether his works are more monumental scenography, deliberately non-functional design furnishings or dreamy architectural models seem pointless – Schmitten's objects and installations are everything at the same time. Schmitten combines intricately crafted surfaces, sanitary sculptural forms and material samplers. He treats diverse elements as an „executive designer“ or an “art director”, under whose direction a special tension arises between the obvious and the anticipated. Just like in the case of transforming a stylized cabinet into a shining show-case and, at the same time, a storage of trauma (works Scham 1606 & Scham 1608, the word stands for Shame). The museum-like character of his art does not speak the language of institutional critique, nor does it serve as a means of speculating on social utopias. Schmitten's pedestals and exhibits are highly aesthetized, obviously costly and even anachronically composed. At the same time, he keeps some sort of irony or decadent playfulness embodied in his work, as illustrated by the drawings or fine tailor lines woven into massive „bodies“. Schmitten's works on paper present visions of ferocious tools parasitizing on modified human bodies that are subject to disfigurement for perverted functionality.

Andreas Schmitten (\* 1980) is a graduate of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and holds the Graduate Prize there (2012), as well as the prestigious Falkenrot Prize (2017). He also lives and works in Düsseldorf. He exhibited in various solo shows such as at The Journal Gallery in New York or at KOENIG LONDON. Schmitten is represented by KOENIG GALERIE. He took part in the group show at Blain|Southern London curated by Tony Cragg.

Sofie Švejdová (\* 1990) graduated from the Painting Studio of Jiří Černický and Stanislav Diviš at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She has solo exhibited at the Jiri Svestka Gallery in Berlin or the Atrium Gallery in Prague or at the VOLTA NY 2018 in New York. In November 2019 she will take part in JSG's group exhibition at the Artissima in Torino.

The exhibition was prepared in collaboration with KOENIG GALERIE. The exhibition programme of Jiri Svestka Gallery is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech republic.

Jiri Svestka Gallery	Janáčkovo nábřeží 5 150 00 Praha 5	Wednesday to Friday 14:00 – 18:00	Saturday 11:00 – 18:00	gallery@jirisvestka.com www.jirisvestkagallery.com
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