

Thank You for Your Cooperation

:mentalkLINIK

Preview 26 May, 2014

27 May – 28 July, 2014

A printed catalog will accompany the show and feature an essay by Jack Halberstam, a professor at USC specializing in the areas of popular, visual and queer culture with an emphasis on subcultures.



WOO-OOO, 2014

*Moving heads (two pieces), light
control engine, Choreography 02
43 x 65 x 27 cm*

:mentalkLINIK play with colorful reflective surfaces, billboard type signs and rhetorical operations to explore new languages and alternative textures of pleasure. By drawing on these elements as the subject and medium of their work, the duo appears to collaborate with the capitalist project they seek to challenge

This exhibition presents a fragment of a highly mediated world that absorbs our complex identities and relationships into flattened text and imagery. :mentalkLINIK tackles this phenomenon in hyper-realistic textual portraits that reflect and translate the individual's preoccupation with creating their self-image. Although the titles of many works refer to individuals, including *WALKING ON AIR HANDE* and *SIMON* their materials are stark. These sculptures made of 'coated aluminum' and 'thermopane glass' reflect our highly active yet increasingly banal and often virtual public personae.

The works in the *PROFILE* series lean against the wall, and function as a hyper-real ID card written in a vocabulary borrowed from user generated profiles created for marketing entities like Starbucks or Facebook. Phrases such as "FASCIST-OPENLY GAY-DOGMATIC-WHITE COLLAR-ANIMAL LOVER-SUBMISSIVE-ELITIST" are semi-legible, stamped with micro-layered polyester film on reflective planes.

The works confront the viewer with the way people have become branded and categorized as objects, even as they embrace the challenge to visualize and

create their individual profiles.

While candy colored reflective spheres abound in this show, the spectator is captured by a soundscape of ring tones and communicative alerts. The sounds in *FOMO*, a layered, subcutaneous noise sculpture, are designed to trigger the spectator into that stand by mode of attention that we all maintain now in relation to our gadgets – at any moment, we may be called – not by a person but by the machine itself telling us that it is time...time for a meeting, time to prepare for an event, time to take a pill, to leave the house, to exercise, time to set another alert.

In the catalog introduction to the show Jack Halberstam offers an alternative route for those of us whose individual identities and social relationships have become violently transformed into immaterial capital:

“When cooperation has lost its anarchist sensibility and become a code word for selling out, it is time to dream small, make tiny adjustments and inch towards the next dream. :mentalkLINIK’s work offers us a laboratory for making, marking and inhabiting the next dream of a somewhere, an anyway, a new place to be.”

As their name suggests, :mentalkLINIK do not attempt to return us to the regular, the normal, the sane or the rational. Rather, *Thank You For Your Cooperation* attempts to reveal what our new order looks like: an altered-through-the-looking-glass reality.

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Jack Halberstam’s previous books include *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (2005), *The Queer Art of Failure* (2011, Duke University Press) and *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal* (2012, Beacon Press)

:mentalkLINIK is an artist duo from Istanbul composed of Yasemin Baydar (B.1972, İstanbul) and Birol Demir (B.1967, Ankara) who began their collaborative works in 1998, forming an open laboratory to reconsider process, production and presentation. Their studio has functioned as a space for dialogue and they enrich their process by engaging other artists and professionals in fields ranging from chemistry to industrial engineering.

The collaborative resist the limitations posed by a singular vocabulary or style and craft material and digital technologies into works that seem to belong to anticipated aesthetics. Their works range from immersive time based works and installations to sculptures and objects that thwart categorization. Publications often accompany projects to reflect their interactive process, and include a form of documentation seeking to explore-concepts and contexts pertaining to emotions, behaviour, viewpoints and senses.

Their work also engages the public in live and embodied installations. *Terribly Jolly* (Istanbul, 2013) for example is a pop-up dance club contained within a small red curtained room that begins at nine am and lasts just thirty minutes, folding together the time of work and leisure to cut short any possibility of shared pleasure. By contrast *FRESHCUT* (Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna,

2013) invites the audience to cut and arrange a massive installation of flowers, transforming them into actors in an augmented cinematic reality.

Throughout their works they bring to light invisible politics and social dynamics that define our everyday lives.

By uncoupling materials from everyday life, they create new aesthetic forms with materials like anti-reflective film, thermopane, digital sculpting, robotics which reveal the awkward, alien and uncanny into the exhibition space, forcing viewers to question their own material surroundings.

:mentalkLINIK's experimental approach has been praised on numerous occasions, and include a performative dinner titled *MAGMAONTHEMOUNTAIN* (Istanbul Modern, 2013) and *Give Joel a Gift, You Will Be Gifted* (Madagascar, 2007). They have participated in numerous international exhibitions including *Istanbul Modern-Rotterdam* at Boijmans van Beuningen Museum (Rotterdam, 2012); Izmir Triennial of Contemporary Art (Izmir, 2010); and *Tomorrow, Now* (MUDAM, Luxembourg, 2007). They have had two major solo shows at Galerist, Istanbul titled *That's Fucking Awesome* curated by Jerome Sans (2011) and *rABBITHOLE* (2009); and a solo show at Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde *Thank You For Your Cooperation* (2014).