

Galerie Francesca Pia

Limmatstrasse 268
8005 Zurich
Switzerland
info@francescapia.com
+41.442712444

Václav Požárek

WOT wieder ohne Titel

April 18 to May 30, 2015

Opening: April 17, 2015

Galerie Francesca Pia is delighted to present "WOT wieder ohne Titel" ("WOT without title"), Václav Požárek's second solo exhibition after "z.B. Donatello" (2004). The exhibition features new sculptures and drawings as well as older works from his over 40-year career.

Požárek's wide-ranging practice has its origins in concrete art and minimalism and is predominantly devoted to sculpture. But the artist also works in printed graphics, book design and typography, collage and photography. With the WOT signet preceding the show and the drawings in the first room of the gallery, Požárek places himself, with laconic humor, in this non-narrative conceptual tradition. Titles of shows and works that function as signets are a recurring trope in his oeuvre (e.g. KLEX, PZK, LOS and SO).

In his sculptures and drawings, the artist works with fragments of various traditions in art and design. Like many of his sculptures, *Ganz offen mit Neon* (2015) is a hybrid between industrially manufactured and handmade, between autonomous aesthetic object and functional implement. So reflections on sculpture fuse in his works with analyses of the form and purpose of everyday objects.

Vier-D (2015) combines Požárek's interest in displays and book art. He has designed a great many of his own artist's books, posters and catalogues, whilst working for publishers and other artists as well. For years he has been creating and designing displays, too, including showcases and other furnishings for the Swiss National Library. In his last major institutional exhibition, "LOS – Library of Sculpture" (2012), he showed a collection of photographs of sculptures from prehistory to the present in an architectural venue specially designed for the exhibition, undermining canonical norms for the design and display of art history artefacts by transferring them into his own idiosyncratic arrangements.

The subversion of art history reference systems and narratives – playing with the architectures of knowledge – is, then, another main theme in his work. Požárek creates situations in which he mixes his practice with other – mostly historical – positions, and in so doing, questions and undermines his own work, his own artistic identity.

The artist's book WOT will be coming out in time for the exhibition in a limited edition of 250 copies.

Václav Požárek was born in Budweis, Czechoslovakia, in 1940. 1965/66 studies of film making at the Prague film school. 1968 relocation to Switzerland. 1969–1973 fine arts studies in Hamburg and London. 1992–1993 recipient of the DAAD Berlin grant. Požárek teaches at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern. Retrospectives have been held at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur (2004) and Kunsthaus Aarau (1995). His "SO" exhibition will be opening this fall at the Kunstmuseum Solothurn. Požárek has designed books for the Swiss publisher Gachnang & Springer-Verlag for Olivier Mosset, Dieter Roth et al.