

Galerie Francesca Pia

FABRICE GYGI

August 26 – November 11, 2017

Opening: Friday, August 25, 18:00 – 20:00

Galerie Francesca Pia is proud to announce a solo exhibition of new work by Fabrice Gygi. During his three-decade career, Gygi has tirelessly explored the forms and ambiguous functions of structures and infrastructures. For his second exhibition at the gallery, Gygi has imagined an installation that interacts with the visuals of control. Incorporating a major sculptural work and the debut of a series of watercolors, the exhibition creates constant battles between reception, execution and the understood.

The main space is inhabited by a large black pill-shaped sculpture. Constructed of banded rubber and inflated to tautness, the work oscillates between heaviness and lightness, appearance and the truth. Surrounding it is a series of watercolor works on paper that use perfectly controlled, single pass strokes as the building blocks for a visual language of beauty, order and disciplined authority. Created as large solitary rectangles or overlaid grids that recall institutional architecture and overpass infrastructure, each of the pieces exists in a perfectly balanced state of control and accident. The tone of the watercolor is pooled at places and shows the natural tendency of its medium, creating a constant energy in the pieces that is heightened and denied by the artist's executional authority against gravity and flow. Continuing his artistic interest in the interaction and meaning of color against form, the main spaces of the gallery are split chromatically. Yellow in the room surrounding the sculpture; and purple in the far room, acting as the hued opposite and foil to this entry installation. In all of these works we see the iconic roots of Gygi's practice: heightening an object's or image's presence through reduction; augmenting the contradictory for the creation of new signs and symbols, and the celebration of tension.

Fabrice Gygi (b. 1965) is one of the preeminent Swiss artists of his generation. He represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale in 2009. He has been the focus of many institutional solo exhibitions including Instituto Svizzero di Roma (2010), Orange County Museum of Art (2005), Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (2005) and MAMCO Geneva (2004). His work has taken central place in major international group exhibitions including, recently, at the Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville de Paris (2017), Migros Museum (2016), Kunsthaus Zürich (2015), Swiss Institute New York (2015), Palais de Tokyo (2011), Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon (2007), Museum Ludwig (2005), Museo Nacional Reina Sofia (2003), 25th Biennial of Ljubljana (2003), Biennale de Sao Paulo (2002), Kunsthaus Bregenz (2000), Kunsthalle Bern (1996).