

Press release

Dein Pendant ist das Gegenstück zu mir

Photography by Christiane Peschek

Vernissage on Feb 21 2014

Duration of exhibition: Feb 22 - May 3 2014

The exhibition "Dein Pendant ist das Gegenstück zu mir", which translates to "your equivalent is my counterpart", presents photography by the Vienna-based artist Christiane Peschek at the Galerie Lesmeister, starting on February 21.

The title itself reveals the initial complexity of the works shown in the exhibition. In actuality though, what is revealed upon getting a closer look is simplicity and the meaning behind the pictures itself - all of which trigger a process of reflection with viewers.

The artist Christiane Peschek was born in 1984 in Salzburg, Austria. She went to the Prager Fotoschule and studied scenography at the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna, where she also currently lives and works.

The exhibition presents three photography series of the artist, titled "Tagebücher" ("diaries"), "Ich werde nicht wie meine Mutter" ("I won't turn into my mother") and "Rooms 2", respectively.

The photographs of the "Tagebücher"-series shows coherent stories and experiences, which, through their composition, are reminiscent of the classical Vanitas still lives. They use a significant visual imagery, which makes them seem timeless. The photos yield intense colors, that are intensified through contrasts. Every single image can be seen as a single unit that is connected to an experience, and therefore can be read like a diary entry.

The series "Ich werde nicht wie meine Mutter" involves the connection between mother and daughter. Specifically the process of identification in relation to role models of younger women are prioritized in this series. The symbolically important mimic art of portrait photography cannot be found in the visual imagery. The

perspective that is offered to the viewer is changed from the usual experience through a photography angle that only shows part of the body, starting at the knee and upwards to the mouth. The clothing symbolizes the problematic dynamic of the showcased process of identification.

A very different interpretation of the portrait photography term is shown in Pescheks cycle "Rooms 2". In this one, the usual portrayal of people in nature is turned upside down. The images show wild animals in urban spaces, in which they obviously seem strange and foreign. The use of this conscious displacement breaks with the ordinariness and habit of public places.

Another aspect of "Rooms 2" series involves the study of urban living and meeting environments. Especially the contrast between the showcased urban setting and the architecture of nature in connection play a big role in this series. In this now common ground people and animals are embedded equally. As a counterpart to the city, that lived off of movement and fast pace, the liveless bodies of animals.

This is how the works of Christiane Peschek show the space in which people and animals collude in a modern setting of the city.