

PERFECT ESCAPISM**Alex Gehrke / Matteo Pizzolante / Agata Milizia**

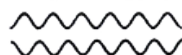
On the occasion of Studi Festival 2017 **Current** hosts the artists Alex Gehrke, Matteo Pizzolante and Agata Milizia, for a group show that sets up as a perfect getaway, an experiment of return, or of trespassing. The starting point is Pfortenhauerstraße 81-83 in Dresden, the address of the Academy of Fine Arts. A place where the attitude still bears reminiscence of the old DDR (German Democratic Republic), where the approach is closer to manual skills, slowness and social context, different from a chaotic capital or an economic centre.

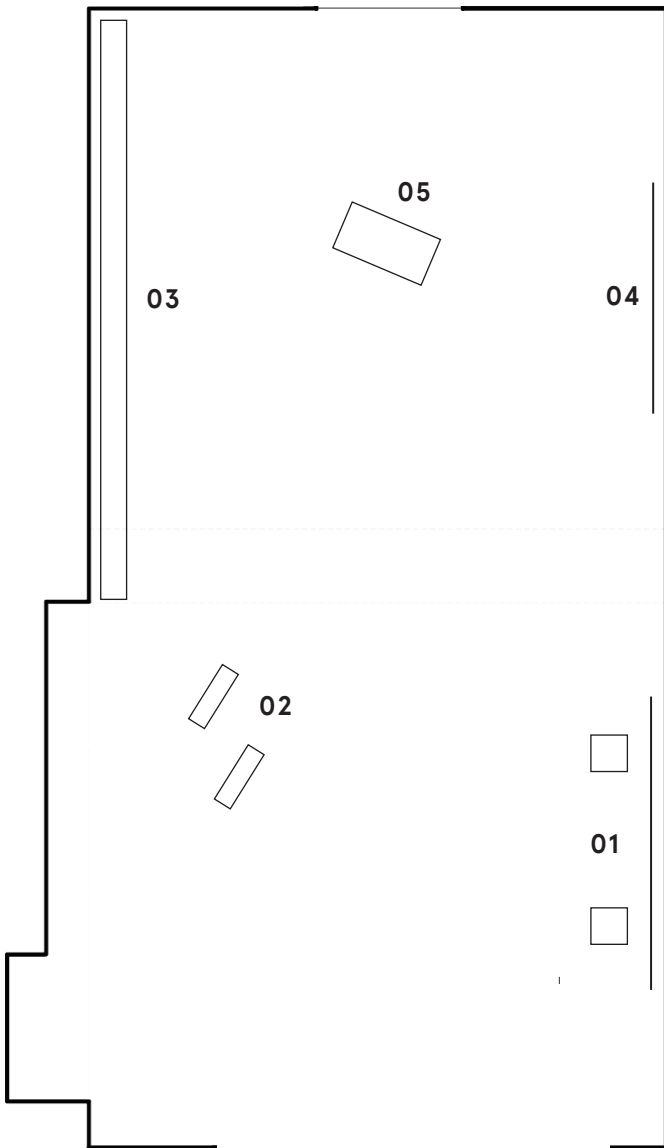
In this case Escapism is singled out as an ambivalent condition, in today's *brave new world*: imaginative practice as a getaway, or as a claim for a space for action. Or else: tool of leisure for mass anesthetization. A second life in which escape from the first one, or an utopian glimmer, an "immature, but honest substitute for revolution"? The artists' works are then escape routes, incarnation of the absence, cracks to look elsewhere; also through the lens of memory, of the past, re-moulding after-images into new objects.

Alex Gehrke's work is an attempt to thematize absence and presence and their different modes. Holes are here understood as anti-objects and play an essential role in his work. Holes in the ground or holes in the head, no matter where, they are like a reminder of the relationship between the object and its surrounding space. Perhaps holes are also as simple or trivial as a handle to transport an object. Is there a good handle to carry absence indeed? What kind of material do one need for a good hole?

The sculptural experiments of **Matteo Pizzolante** deal with the antinomy between the artificial and nature, with echoes of the drawings of Moebius or Vittorio Giardino. 3D modeling allows him to explore the boundaries between reality and representation, recovering the memory, reconstructing it and then enveloping it in a metaphysical light: the works then become time-machines capable of condensing the whole time in one instant. The materials of the most recent sculptures, wax, plaster, aluminum, go through the same process where the manual work is blurred in a rational form.

The references of **Agata Milizia** range from applied arts and design to fashion and the imaginary to esotericism, but also to sociology and the language of advertising. In her recent works she evokes the estrangement from reality in visual culture of cartoon and anime on fleece blankets that become wearable clothes - or in the attempt to make a three-dimensional object what is not, what does not yet exist. The ancient illustrations of fantastic creatures become resin sculptures molded by hand, reminiscent of architectural decorative elements.



**01 Agata Milizia****Protome su fondo floreale**

PVC, epoxy resin, iron, dimensions variable
2017

02 Matteo Pizzolante**Untitled**

aluminum, wax and plaster, 40 x 12 x 45cm each,
2016

03 Alex Gehrke**Regal**

shelving, wood, wax, polyurethane,
approximately 300 x 50 x 50 cm,
2016

04 Matteo Pizzolante**Cianotipia**

cyanotype, 125 x 85 cm,
2017

05 Alex Gehrke**Ameisenvideo**

video, DVD player, beamer, tripod,
approximately 43 x 60 x 95 cm,
2014

ALEX GEHRKE *1986 Frankfurt Oder, lives and works in Dresden and Berlin / from 2010 Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden, Prof. Wilhelm Mundt
www.klassemundt.de/?portfolio=alex-gehrke

MATTEO PIZZOLANTE *1989 Tricase, lives and works in Dresden and Milan / 2012 degree in Civil Engineering at the Politecnico di Milano / from 2015 Academy of Fine Arts of Brera, Prof. Vittorio Corsini / from 2016 Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden, Prof. Wilhelm Mundt and Prof. Carsten Nicolai
matteopizzolante.blogspot.it

AGATA MILIZIA *1994 Milan, lives and works in Dresden and Milan / from 2014 Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden, Prof. Martin Honert
www.agatamilizia.com

CURRENT is a platform created by artists and curators. It is based in an independent space in Milan, a place to experiment and exhibit the contemporary forms of creation, open to collaborations with other Italian and international projects.

A project by Alessandro Azzoni, Ruben De Sousa, Tania Fiaccadori, Carlo Miele, Francesco Pieraccini, Marcella Toscani.

