

Irene Schubiger
Behind the words

3.5 - 31.5.2014

Opening, Friday 2.5.2014, 6pm

We are delighted to be showing new works by Irene Schubiger (*1948,CH). "Behind the words" is this artist's third solo exhibition at annex14. Her drawings, sculptures and objects provoke ambivalent emotions and responses. They awaken associations with household items, with fragmented bodies and with architectonic elements. Using gestures that are marked by a certain ease, the artist conjures up atmospheres otherwise only familiar to us from dreams. Irene Schubiger's narrative-without-words speak in a paradoxical way about hidden human emotions and abysses, about fears and vulnerability, about revelling in the perverse and the cruel, about nightmares and childlike delight.

Time after time this artist surprises us with her highly innovative and experimental handling of materials, colours and shapes. On the basis of her own emotions and moods, she has so far created an open, yet binding formal cosmos that she is constantly expanding and for which she also falls back on earlier motifs. These she transforms and interprets anew so that over extended periods of time they are capable of forming loose groups of works, such as her "Beine" (Legs) or "Tische" (Tables). Schubiger develops three-dimensional bodies made of polystyrene, papier-mâché, plaster, gauze, polyurethane, wood and cardboard and then further processes their surface. In the current exhibition, the objects are smoothed over and coated in black or white coloured latex so that they take on a certain toughness and precision, while their surface has a sensual corporeality that is both attractive and repulsive.

Even if the stimulus for the work was something intuitive, the treatment of the form is a conscious process. This equally applies to the almost terse formal idiom of the watercolour paint with which things as contrary as a flower, a hand or a foot are captured in outline, or with which the autobiographical allusion of the abbreviation "IS" is applied.