

















Christoph Meier  
Demoraum  
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna  
Schillerplatz 3 - Aula  
A - 1010 Vienna  
15.04.2008 19:00 in conversation with Peter Pakesch, Intendant Landesmuseum Joanneum Graz  
Exhibition: 16.04.2008 - 18.04.2008 11:00 – 18:00

Christoph Meier's studio-based approach to making art is representative of an inquisitive mind. Large free-standing sculptures, minimal in-situ interventions, video installations and screen prints interrogate the theoretical grounding, reception and boundaries of artistic production. He employs objets trouvés bearing signs of pre-existing activities to playfully reassemble them in an attempt to experiment with error and self-doubt. Using a rigorous formalist vocabulary that may appear to pay homage to modernist abstract principles, Meier's practice doesn't follow conventional schemes. Work rules and quick design solutions derive from the architectural field that, together with bricolage techniques, elucidate a peculiar approach to formal sculptural concerns. His over-elaborated or simplified works can look like pieces of furniture and Duchampian readymades, however they distance themselves from the discourse around materiality or "high" and "low art" to focus on his fascination with the studio as the main context of production, reflection about and perception of art. If we follow Vilém Flusser's consideration of 'design' as an activity occurring in contexts associated with deceit, in this exhibition Meier defies the (mis-)use of ornamental classical designs conceited in the neo-renaissance style of the Academy building designed by Danish architect Theophil Hansen in the 1870s. Such decorative masquerade has inspired him to rearrange these motifs symbolically within a mini "(Semper) depot" that echoes the warehouse built in the same period by Gottfried Semper and Karl Hasenauer, now also housing studios of the Academy.  
Diana Baldon

Photography by Gregor Titze

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