

Laura Schawelka

Double

2017 April 22 – May 27

Opening Friday, April 21 / 7pm

www.fiebach-minninger.com

Relics replaced the saints after their death. Double. They testify to the myth. After the exhibition space was neutralized, it ironically became even more sacred. It was given an unprecedented independence. White walls and neon light. Previously the exhibition space was only one among other sacred and noble rooms. The death of the White Cube is taking its time. Prophesied by some, demanded by others, sponsored by a few. Its agony is accelerated as soon as wallpaper is glued to the walls. Images are more real than their precursors. If the golden age of the White Cube was the time of having – in which, as a counter-model, it had to enable being in the present through its neutrality – it must now exist in the time of enrichment or loss. Something is valued inasmuch as it carries a history with or within itself. The value of an object, even the value of the individual, is determined by its history. There were times when it was necessary to abandon what had been before. Today, there seems to be no tomorrow without a permanent yesterday. How does it feel to constantly encounter surrogates feigning identity? To let the double take the reins in those crucial moments? To be the useless twin of the present? The current desire for the past shows a lack of presence. Longing exists only when something is missing. There is a lack of confidence in the present, so we need to summon old spirits, myths and ideas. Sceneries are being built. Hand in green dyed Muscle Milk on artificial leather. Milk symbolizes new life; the white mother's milk conveys wholesomeness. Milk feeds and is precious. Milk in the Christian context stands for the grace and purity of the word of God. Milk was given to German children by the Americans shortly after the Second World War. Muscle Milk promises new muscles. Neon green liquid, alien slime become a physical substitute for the abject. Leather, old skin, bear witness to past life, lived life. Leather is associated with toughness and strength, with adventure and fearlessness. Leather has always been used as protective clothing. Synthetic leather only imitates and stands for cheapness, imposture, tackiness and low-budget car seat upholstery. The hand points to action, creation, or healing. The hand embraces the remains. The hand is the guardian of the relics, part of the Guelph treasure, bearer of the history of power, belonging, pride, assimilation, guilt and restitution. The hand is the goal and the means of desire, the hand of the creator. The hand carries, the hand shows, the hand touches, the hand feels. The hand on the photo wallpaper is the most real object in the space. This is the artist's hand. Before you. In the room. Now.

Muriel Meyer