

SEBASTIEN de GANAY
"FLIP FLOP FLUX"

12th April - 10th May 2019

Opening and Artist Talk with Sébastien de Ganay and Katja Mittendorfer
Friday, 12th April 2019, 9 PM (Evening)

The art of **SEBASTIEN de GANAY** (*1962 Boulogne-Billancourt) sparks an unruly desire to get to the bottom of things and to take a look behind seemingly familiar scenes. Geometric fundamental structures whose formal restraint references minimal art, merge with everyday objects illustrating the artist's playful impetus.

The works of **SEBASTIEN de GANAY** are not only of high aesthetic value, but are also instruments of realisation. The artist wants the viewer to mentally experiment with well-known objects: the exhibition's title FLIP FLOP FLUX implies an alleged, haptic flexibility in the works and primarily refers to the *Folded Flat* series. Square, folded Post-its are the basis of these artworks: transferred onto a large scale and manufactured from aluminium, they meet the observer either in an obvious or, when facing the wall (*XL Folded Flat Light Red 01*) concealed manner. The blue, red, chestnut-coloured and yellow lacquered *Folded Flats* ignite a thought process of unfoldment. The artist shares his understanding of the work process that has led to the works' emergence.

The second group of works shown in our exhibition, titled *Wall Pallets* were, just as the *Folded Flats*, created within the last couple of months in the artist's studio in Bad Deutsch-Altenburg near Vienna. Pallets are released of their functionality as **SEBASTIEN de GANAY** transforms them into pieces of art. Sheets of acrylic glass are used as a connector between pallets that hang upon the wall. They allow a view onto a blank space, where one would usually expect wooden struts (*Wall Pallets 2 - 4*). In *Mirror Wall Pallets*, highly artificial front surface mirrors replace the acrylic planes. The viewer is being incorporated into the work and becomes an accomplice in a game of deception, closer examination of functionality and perceptual processes (*Mirror Wall Pallet 1 - 2*).

"Every work the artist drafts, demonstrates his analysis of time, material and matter, abstraction and the everyday world, boundaries between art and life – but also of the effect of their removal which is the viewer's inevitable confusion."¹ This is how the curator Andreas Hoffer aptly outlines the quintessence of **SEBASTIEN de GANAY's** artistic work.

Salzburg, March 2019

Katja Mittendorfer

¹ HOFFER, A., A Pinpoint Landing, introduction to the exhibition catalogue *Transposition and Reproduction*. Kunsthalle Krems, Kerber Verlag, 2017. P. 8.