

Galerie Neu

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Tom Burr, *Compressions*, 10.09.2022 – 22.10.2022

Galerie Neu is pleased to present *Compressions*, Tom Burr's new solo exhibition with the gallery.

Dispersed over the gallery space, the wooden surfaces of *Atlas I*, *Atlas II* and *Atlas III* (all 2022) host pinned 80s black and white photographs of artist Charles Atlas carefully layered with transparent plastic sleeves and high visibility orange safety fabric. While bringing an overall sense of alarm, the wooden panels compositions express a form of trans-generational affection.

The view of the Atlas works is, at times, partially obstructed by the presence, at the center of the main room, of a new large sculpture, *CONFIGURATION (NEXT) GENERATION* (2022).

Consisting of four matte black identical wooden cubicles, each suggesting a partially open room, the structure directly references the artist's work from the early 2000s interrogating the formal legacy of minimalism.

With their open sides facing outwards, the space between the cubicles forms a crossway. The low corridor walls are in part mirrored through the presence of transparent plexiglass panels, interrupted by the vertical studs that support the walls, allowing viewers entering between the cubicles to look inside while their lower bodies reflect in the mirrored surface.

In each cubicle, a single bed metal frame placed alongside the wall suggests a tension (and collapse) between institution and domestic spaces: spaces of personal intimacy, of control and (self)surveillance, of discipline and security combined where bodies are repetitively positioned and isolated. Scattered on the platforms are objects (DVDs, books, blankets, etc) chosen for their subject matter based on the artist's concern with issues surrounding psychology and control, gender, sexuality and politics.

By directly inserting elements of subjectivity, desire, and poetic story-telling into the tight formal language of minimalism and conceptual art, Burr produces complex aesthetic metaphors for abstract political themes such as (in)visibility, privacy, control, and resilience.

With a particular attention to methodologies and dialogue with past works, the works presented here at Galerie Neu have been conceived over the past year within the specific physical and conceptual framework of Burr's ongoing *Torrington Project*, a space occupying an expansive former factory building in Torrington, Connecticut, where (re)configurations of his works of the last three decades and site-reflexivity generate present and future ideas.

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Tom Burr's (b. 1963 in New Haven, Connecticut) recent solo exhibitions and projects include *Nine Renovations*, a public commission presented as part of Frieze New York (2022); *Hélio-Centricities, auroras, São Paulo* and *Hélio-Centricities: Coda*, Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro (2019); *Tom Burr / MATRIX 182 / Hinged Figures*, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut (2019); *Sedimental*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia (2018); *Tom Burr/New Haven, Body/Building: Pre-Existing Conditions*, Breuer Armstrong Rubber building, New Haven, Connecticut (2017); *Surplus of Myself*, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (2017).

His work is currently on view in the group exhibitions *Life Between Buildings* at MoMA PS1, New York and *Church for Sale*, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin.