

Carlo Borer | Beyond Fiction

Opening: Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 6 – 8 pm

Duration of exhibition: October 3 – November 2, 2019

Carlo Borer is known for his highly complex steel and stainless steel sculptures, which are based on mathematical calculations and elaborately crafted by hand. In the current exhibition *Beyond Fiction*, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie is presenting a selection of Carlo Borer's *No Ready-Mades*, *Spaceships* and *Clouds* as well as the stainless steel installation POP, which the artist has specially designed for the gallery space.

In the development of his objects, Carlo Borer makes use of perceptions from evolutionary theory, neuropsychology as well as the resulting logical contexts. He questions the complex processes of human software. Borer uses familiar, partly used materials and everyday objects, in contrast to newly built bodies, which approach an ideal form. The resulting objects seem to have a practical value. Borer uses the technical perfection of his works as a means of deception. The viewer suspects a supposed purpose, but cannot decipher it. This conflict is intentional.

With the objects of the series *No Ready-Mades* and *Spaceships*, Carlo Borer lets himself be guided by found objects and, reversing the principle of Marcel Duchamp's *Ready-Mades*, places them in a different context. The objects were built as fictitious inventions. When viewed for the first time, the *Spaceships* also do not fulfill the science fiction expectations suggested by the title. From a frontal angle, the elongated bodies appear like parts of a large tree trunk. But instead of a natural object, a glance at the cut surfaces of the trunks shows a tube lined with copper. Biological and technical forms are brought together in the *Spaceships* in a way that does not correspond to the viewer's imagination.

The exhibition's main work is entitled *POP (population)* and was constructed especially for the gallery space. It is designed according to UN data on population growth from 1500 B.C. to 2050. The data collected by the UN shows that the population increased eightfold from 1 billion to almost 8 billion within 200 years. The worst possible scenario for the future is a further doubling in the next 100 years. Carlo Borer developed this installation as well as the objects in the *Clouds* series in virtual space using CAD (computer-aided design), virtual reality and high-tech lasers. However, the sculptures are created in the real world using sophisticated craftsmanship. It would be possible to materialized the objects of the series *Clouds*, which were generated in virtual space, through 3D printers. Carlo Borer, however, prefers them made of hammered and polished stainless steel. Between the design and execution of the sculptures, a media-technical translation process takes place, from contemporary computer application to the 8000-year-old manual practice of metalworking with a hammer.

For images and further information, please contact the gallery.