

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

常 青 画 廊

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Rd. Chaoyang Dst, Beijing. Tuesday - Sunday 10am-6pm +86 10
59789505 | www.galleriacontinua.com

TOBIAS REHBERGER

I AM ME (EXCEPT WHEN I PRETEND I AM HER)

2022.06.26

Galleria Continua is proud to present: I am me (except when I pretend I am her), the first exhibition by Tobias Rehberger with Galleria Continua, Beijing on the occasion of Gallery Weekend Beijing.

Identity is a weird thing. A bit like catching a fish by hand. Even when you think you caught it, it slips out of your hands. It's a bit like writing too. The moment you write something down, you immediately think the opposite of it is just as right.

— Tobias Rehberger

The exhibition focuses on the concepts of identity and mirroring, to the point of blending two elements. The works presented in the gallery spaces play on the relationship between two bodies, how they interact and come together as one, and the meaning of this relationship.

The show presents a wide range of works, including one monumental Siamese lighthouse titled "the same difference is a tragedy and a joke as well", specially made for the show at Galleria Continua, Beijing. The duality of the works permeates all the exhibited series, from the Siamese

lighthouse to the dazzle pattern kitchen on the ground floor, and the dazzled bar on the top floor of the gallery.

"If you are one of two twins and you look at each other, you know it's her face. But then, you pretend it's you." In the same way, the intertwined lighthouses in the main room of the gallery are one and identical, but they are projecting two separate films at the same time. The projections crawl around like ghosts, more like thoughts that pass by than images to look at or stare at. Sometimes sharp and brilliant for a moment, sometimes vague and blurry, almost like images from the past, Rehberger's projections are sliding by in the present."

Two sculptures from the "Mother Without Child" series; "Hysteric Mother Without Child" and "Deadpan Mother Without Child" are on view on the second floor of the gallery.

Tobias Rehberger's works explore the relationship between two elements and how they merge as one, as well as how one person blends with others and what that relationship entails.

Due to the pandemic, we are now hosting a soft opening of the exhibition "I am me, (except when I pretend I am her)". In September we will present a new, grander show featuring all the artworks produced in Europe that couldn't reach China in time.

He teaches at the Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main where he also lives and works.

Biography

Tobias Rehberger is one of the most influential and successful German artists of his generation.

He was born in 1966 in Esslingen, Germany and attended the Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main before he started working as an artist in the early nineties.

With his various forms of artistic output: sculptures, industrial objects and handcrafted articles, he explores the wider sphere of structural design and architecture, thriving on chance connections and unexpected encounters.

The concept of transformation is the central theme of his art. Rehberger focuses his energies on the process of perception and of awareness, temporality and the sense of transience, discontinuity and ambiguity. His installations have been included in both the 50th and the 53rd Venice Biennales and he exhibited at Whitechapel Gallery in London, Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Fondazione Prada in Milan, Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and Kunstmuseum Stuttgart. Tobias Rehberger will open an exhibition at Yuelai Museum in Chongqing in 2022. In 2009 he won the Golden Lion for best artist for his sculptural installation at the cafeteria of the Venice Biennale.