CARTE BLANCHE TO DAVID BIELANDER
8 February – 30 April 2017

PRESS KIT

mudac
MUSÉE DE DESIGN ET D’ARTS APPLIQUÉS CONTEMPORAINS
Lausanne, December 2016

CARTE BLANCHE TO DAVID BIELANDER
8 February – 30 April 2017

PRESS CONFERENCE: TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY AT 10.30 am
IN THE PRESENCE OF DAVID BIELANDER

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Thank you to confirm if you plan to attend the press conference until January 31.

HD IMAGES
http://mudac.ch/press/
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CARTE BLANCHE TO DAVID BIELANDER

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Curators: David Bielander and Carole Guinard, curator of the jewellery collection

The Swiss designer living in Munich, David Bielander translates everyday objects into jewellery. The elements of a chair are thus transformed into a sausage necklace, drawing pins into the scales of a koi carp and disposable lighter hoods into flying insects. Bielander’s practice shows a close attention to objects and materials alike: the artist talks of only “revealing” that which is already there – the sausage in the chair, the scale in the drawing pin – and in some way “listening” to the forms contained within things.

David Bielander’s world is inhabited by numerous animal figures: snakes, pigs, elephants, slugs or prawns. The jewellery maker is less interested in their symbolism than in their immediate familiarity to the viewer. As a result of this ambivalence and playfulness, when his pieces are worn, they truly come to life: his slug pins launch a slithering attack on the neckline, the snake necklace writhes around the throat… Although complex or unusual in size, his pieces are nonetheless intended entirely as jewellery, designed to be worn; moreover, they are generally fabricated in small series and sometimes as unlimited editions.

A student of the Swiss jewellery maker Otto Künzli, with whom he shares some of his strongly conceptual approach, David Bielander’s use of materials is both extremely precise and very free. He plays with textures and colours, obtaining the illusory effect his pieces provoke. Although the term is often used to describe his practice, illusion is actually not an end in itself; it is more a form of humour which prompts both dialogue and reflection.

At mudac, David Bielander presents a show of his work since 1996. The tone is set by a strange interactive machine at the entrance of the exhibition: it creates a little, perfectly formed smoke ring, which the visitor catches in a sealed bag, bought at the reception of the museum. Between illusion and faith – you cannot verify it without risking the smoke blowing away – this piece bears witness to the multiple levels on which his work can be read.

A little further on, he pays homage to Giuseppe Arcimboldo, the 16th century portraitist and master of allegorical painting. Referring to the principle of portraiture through a collection of objects, in collaboration with photographer Simon Bielander he composes his own face from pictures of his creations; the actual works, meanwhile, are displayed in the same space.

A new series entitled “Cardboard” directly questions the notions of value generally ascribed to jewellery materials. Playing on the shapes of a child’s craft project or System D, bracelets or crowns in stapled corrugated cardboard are in reality made by him from patinated gold or silver. This series of countercurrent counterfeits continues with objects mimicking brown paper bags – yet another way of citing the displacement and questioning sparked by David Bielander’s creations.
Tortoise Shell, 2014
Antique tin plate, patinated
Image © Dirk Eisel

Scampi, 2007
Bracelet, silver (cooper anodized), elastic
Image © Simon Bielander

Tortoise Shell, 2014
Antique tin plate, patinated
Image © Dirk Eisel

Garlic, 2009
Pendant, silver
Image © Simon Bielander
Cardboard (Crucifix), 2015
Crucifix, cardboard
Image © Dirk Eisel

Cardboard (Heart), 2016
Bracelet, gold
Image © Dirk Eisel

Cardboard (Crown), 2015
Crown or necklace, gold
Image © Dirk Eisel
Paper Bag (Croissant), 2016
Tray, patinated silver
Image © David Bielander

Pneu, 2010
Bracelet, silver
Image © Simon Bielander

Paper Bag (Sugar), 2016
Bowl, patinated silver
Image © David Bielander

Paper Bag (Croissant), 2016
Tray, patinated silver
Image © David Bielander
Banane, 2010
Neckpiece, silver, leather
Image © David Bielander

Demiurg (Self-portrait David Bielander), 2013
Photography
Image © Simon und David Bielander

Koi, 2012
Bracelet, leather, drawing pins
Image © Simon Bielander

Perlensau, 2003
Brooch, pearls, gold
Image © Simon Bielander

Thonet 01-03 (Wienerle, Frankfurter, Weisswurst), 2009
Necklace, bentwood
Image © David Bielander

Perlensau (Self-portrait David Bielander), 2013
Photography
Image © Simon und David Bielander
USEFUL INFORMATION

Press conference  Tuesday February 7 at 10.30am

Opening  Tuesday February 7 at 6pm

Dates of the exhibition  February 8 – April 30, 2017

Event  Jeudi Design
Talk with David Bielander and Aldo Bakker
Thursday 23 March at 6pm

Guided tour with the artist
Sunday 30 April at 4pm

Guided tours  Sunday 5 March at 4pm
Tuesday 21 March at 12.15
Saturday 1 April at 4pm

Hours  Tue - Sun, 11am - 6pm
Open on every bank holiday, Mondays included
Free admission on the first Saturday of each month

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