



Das Tiefste am Menschen ist seine Haut

Leon Emanuel Blanck

Leon Emanuel Blanck was born in 1985, he has been creating designs in his atelier since 2012 and is active in the fashion, design and art scene. In this exhibition, Blanck is back to his most familiar material, fabric, to enrich his universe of Anfractuous Distortion, in which every piece represents an extension of its original concept. With this piece in particular, form dominates over object, and emotion comes through the interplay of the convex and concave. With his work, Blanck consciously rearranges ordered information, shaping new odd creations that seem to stem from another universe. The process of deconstruction and reconstruction permeates through all his objects.



Leon Emanuel Blanck(DE)

We are delighted to host artist Leon Emanuel Blanck's first solo show at Nadan. In this exhibition, Blanck presents his first interactive and new practices. Surface and space, the body and its shadows, the visible and the invisible form a dazzling liaison in Leon Emanuel Blanck's objects.

The material of his art are X-ray films, which he cuts, collages, folds into bodies, sews together, accumulates and assembles into substantial sculptures. These structures can be arranged in very different ways in the space, they can be hung, laid, put on the plinth or attached to the wall. They always connect with the space, correspond and communicate with each other, and initiate changes of view between difference and repetition. In each case, they are a physical counterpart that holds form and freedom, similarity and strangeness in suspension.

The X-ray image depicts a three-dimensional body on the surface. Here, the X-ray shadows, which lie spatially one behind the other, are projected on top of each other and the transparent, translucent or opaque parts of the X-ray image add up to an overall shadow. The shadowy appearances, the reduction of grey scales, and the loss of space evoke immateriality or the dissolution of substance.

These ghostly images now become sculpturally corporeal again in Blanck's modelling. In these anthropomorphic objects, the focus is no longer on the closed, representational form, but on sculpture as addition of fragments, as a spatial construction into which light, space, time and movement flow. Inside and outside, Volume and mass, transparency and obscurity alternately intertwine, formulate the body of the picture with its curvatures, indentations, and outgrowths. Each of these sculptures holds a subtle tension between surface and spatial depth, between the skiagraphy of the X-ray image and sculpture. And it is as if the ancient body-soul problem and the technical image of the X-ray have entered into very peculiar connections.

Before the invention of X-ray technology, the human skin was the barrier that denied a view of the inside of the body. This deeply anchored notion of visibility and graspability was shaken by this new imaging technique and fundamentally changed by new visualisation techniques in the course of the 19th century. Walter Benjamin attributes photography, and film analogous to psychoanalysis, the function of making the "optical unconscious" visible. "The camera makes it possible to experience an optical unconscious in the world of perception; it does not depict reality but penetrates it. It shows something that can only be found outside a normal spectrum of sensory perception. We only learn about the optical unconscious through it, as we learn about the libidinal unconscious through psychoanalysis". This optical unconscious acquires consciousness and a presence, as it were, in Blanck's sculptures. And as in Freud's model of the unconscious as the invisible source of human emotions and reactions, a normally invisible is brought to the surface in the objects, and becomes the surface. The abstraction of the illuminated body finds its counterpart in Blanck's fragmentation and abstract shaping of his material, which allow and deny pictoriality at the same time. In his philosophy of film, Gilles Deleuze likened the time-image-film to the crystal: these crystal images unite pictorial elements of different times that interact, communicate with each other, and become alternately permeable. Leon Emanuel Blanck also works with superimpositions, modulations, collage and montage, with this transparency of the crystal image, in which the real and the virtual can coexist.

„Das Tiefste am Menschen ist seine Haut.“ Blanck's sculptures switch with this paradox confidently. They reveal and envelop, are elastic vivisection.

These structure stage volume, movement, and material are a reflection of our physical constitution in the world without becoming egocentrically fixed. In these objects, the invisible is translated into visible and legible signs. With mild shock, these sculptures facet familiar ways of seeing, initiating projection and dissolution of boundaries. Leon Emanuel Blanck unconventionally reflects on the cultural achievement of illuminating the body, which changed habitual modes of perception as well as the phantasmatic-imaginative sphere of consciousness. Such futuristic utopias of cognition are brought back into the world, illuminated and questioned in and as bodies in Blanck's work.

Text: Dr. Dorothee Bauerle-Willert



















Fracture Army, 2022
X-Rays, Epoxy Resin
10x4x7.5cm
€ 395 (excl. VAT)



Fracture Army, 2022
X-Rays, Epoxy Resin
10x4x4cm
€ 395 (excl. VAT)



Fracture Army, 2022
X-Rays, Epoxy Resin
10x4x7.5cm
€ 395 (excl. VAT)



Fracture Army, 2022
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NADAN ist eine unabhängige Kulturplattform mit Sitz in Berlin. Wir fördern zeitgenössische junge Kunst, Design, Kreativität und Ideen.

Wir glauben an den Dialog, insbesondere zwischen Asien und Europa. Wir glauben, dass unsere Generation der Welt neue Gedanken zeigen muss, um etwas Schöneres und Ehrevolleres zu schaffen als das, was wir sehen.

NADAN is an independent cultural platform situated in Berlin. We promote contemporary emerging art, design, creativity and ideas.

We believe in dialogue, particularly between Asia and Europe. We believe our generation must demonstrate new thoughts to the world to help create something more beautiful and honorable than what we see.

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