

SOPHIA POMPÉRY

still

30 April – 19 June 2010

Sophia Pompéry's video works, installations, and objects move between the extension of perception and vanitas. They show motifs that cannot actually be seen – for a few moments it is possible for the viewer to find themselves in two places at once, to cheat time, and to take part in a transitive process.

In the work "still water", the artist uses the motif of mirroring, which makes it possible to see things which are located outside of the perceptual horizon. Messages from another dimension are presented in the field of vision and present the question of what can actually be seen by the viewer. The video work shows a dark tabletop with various objects. This manner of representation is very reminiscent of classic still life – here viewers may completely dedicate themselves to the calm, structured composition. However, this still life is transformed; the pictorial space starts to move about. A hand with a paintbrush coats the table surface with water. Through the foreshortening of the camera perspective, the water acts like a right angle in the middle of the likewise right-angled picture detail, like a framed second image. In the reflection on the water one can see a window. A glass bulb in which everything is mirrored is hanging in this window. One's vision is increased; revealing a doubling of the image which is located outside the tabletop, and which constantly changes. Firstly the shrinking, then the evaporation of the water deprives one's view outside. "Still water" retains its fascination in the temporal and iconographical gap between two such moments – however when going beyond this border of the frame transience itself is captured.

Mirroring and snapshots can also be found in the video work "kawala play". As the flute, an Egyptian Kawala, is played a growing soap bubble can be seen coming into being. A fascinating relationship develops between the music and the formation of a simple soap bubble. The soap bubble in turn becomes the surface of projection and renders everything in the surrounding space visible – naturally until the bubble bursts.

"Still" – yet; a world just now comes into existence, which a few moments later can no longer be seen; it captivates us through its complete presence. Reality is reflected; it mixes and turns upside down. Time and space, the emergence of space and movement in time, are clear motifs recurring throughout Pompéry's work. They fascinate through their uniqueness and through the possibility of enabling the viewer to have an individual snapshot. Sophia Pompéry's video works and installations surprise the viewer, constantly creating new questions and manifesting the fragility of perception. To formulate in the words of the title of an additional work, "Don't worry, I will find you a new problem."

(Madeleine Potganski)