

The exhibition "Between A and Z" contains three bodies of work by Joachim Bandau (b. 1936 in Cologne). In addition to new wall works, which are coated in Burmese Bagan lacquer, Bandau exhibits watercolors and a sculpture, "Silbernes Monstrum", from 1970-71. It belongs to a series of mobile sculptures made from fiberglass that Bandau has been creating since the late 1960's.

Joachim Bandau presented his "Kabinen-Mobile" in the "Utopian Design" section of documenta 6 (1977). These wheeled objects moved independently, driven by windshield-wiper motors; their forms derived from abstractions of bodily postures like sitting, standing, or reclining. Bandau had developed these sheet-steel sculptures during a 1973 residency at Mercedes-Benz in Sindelfingen. The "Kabinen-Mobile" were a consequent and abstract continuation of his futurist-organic figures produced since the 1960's and mostly executed in glass-reinforced polyester.

A 1972 exhibition catalog titled "Figuren Geräte Monstren" [Figures Tools Monsters] documents Bandau's early sculptures, and through its title attempts to capture the works using language. Bandau's program, as he declared in 1970, was the "development and production of organ-devices, transplantation objects, medical paraphernalia, deformities, monsters (...)". Black glistening polyester forms, in which fragments of mannequins are visible, are reminiscent of the deformed and fetishistic dolls of Hans Bellmer. Later, Bandau developed the figures on the basis of a modular system. As with "Silbernes Monstrum" of 1970-71, the surfaces become smoother and are finished with a metallic lustre. The sculptures resemble a hybrid of man, machine, and design-object.

Bandau's lacquer works and his black watercolor paintings produced since 1983 both exploit the principle of layering. For his black watercolor works, Bandau applies washes of strongly diluted paint in several layers onto heavy handmade-paper with a wide Japanese-bristle brush. Each individual layer is transparent and nearly invisible. Between each step, the layer of paint is set to dry and the paper is pressed. Only in this layering do the paint washes condense into deep black forms. Each watercolor work can take several weeks to produce.

The black and red sculptural wall objects were created between 2010 and 2012 and are coated with a special lacquer in Burma. This lacquer is made from the resin of the Usitata tree and is traditionally used for lacquering furniture and bowls. Its natural oxidation process produces a black color; with the addition of cinnabar, the lacquer acquires a red hue. The wall pieces have a wooden core that is lacquered in up to fifteen layers.

A new multiple entitled "B-A-C-H" has been created especially for the exhibition in an edition of 8.

Joachim Bandau lives in Aachen and Stäfa, Switzerland. He studied from 1957 to 1960 at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Recent solo exhibitions include the Neues Museum in Nuremberg; the Ludwig Forum, Aachen; and Galerie Mark Müller, Zurich. Joachim Bandau's works have been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest; Städtische Kunsthalle Mannheim; Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz; the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels; and at documenta 6.

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