

## **Vor meiner Haut beginnt das Fremde/ Before my skin the strangers begin**

Werkstatt Galerie is pleased to present the first solo exhibition by Berlin based Italian artist Cristiano Tassinari (b. 1980) at our space, on view June 2nd to July 9th, which will showcase his paintings, installations and mix media works.

In the exhibition *Vor meiner Haut beginnt das Fremde* Cristiano Tassinari brings together the varied bodies of works and conceptual preoccupation that have characterized his practice in recent years. Tassinari's work has taken many different shapes, but all are linked to painterly and sculptural form.

His artistic practice can thus be interpreted as an expansive process in which an investigation of the social dynamics completes the development of new types of objects and conceptual paintings.

*Africanella* implies an existing Italian brand logo, it explores issues of race and migration in Italy, its surrounding, and beyond. The stories of refugees and migrants from North Africa are crucial narratives that need to be told alongside with Europe's colonial history, together with the stories of migrants and refugees.

The sculpture *Selfportrait*, plays with our perceptions, perverting how we might usually convert visual information into well-grounded beliefs about the external world. Tassinari's sculptures can be seen as parts of an ongoing project called *object oriented objects*, that explores questions regarding the sculptural process and the relationship of an object to its material manifestation in space.

*15.2 cm table lifted* is a sculptural intervention first executed in Berlin in 2010. The lifted table piece is a subtle disruption within the gallery. Quite attached to the floor, it seems to float. This simple gesture invites to reconsider their habitual expectations of a gallery visit.

The paintings and the drawings on polystyrene are often derived from photographs, whose sources may be magazine pictures or photographs he has taken himself of close friends. Tassinari often produces many works of the same subject, this produces a seriality that in both cases exemplifies the interleaving of public and private.

Tassinari also maintained a curiosity and innocence about the creation of objects, undermines the classical notions of sculpture or painting, re-inventing these well-known genres with new energy.

The work reveals ambiguous relations and answers, shows the documentation of its self-generation, brings to attention simple daily wares like a reflecting surface or a painted aluminium structure.



Africanella, 2016, neon light tubes, power transformer, 50 x 45, 9 cm, edition of 5, certificate signed by the artist

Cristiano Tassinari lives and works in Berlin, his works have been widely exhibited, at venues such as PAC in Milan, Ravenna Art Museum and Licini Museum in Italy.