

**MUTTER & GENTH – Fixateurs Externes****7 June – 20 July 2013**

With *'Fixateurs Externes'*, taubert contemporary presents the first comprehensive solo exhibition by Heike Mutter and Ulrich Genth in the gallery. The ten-year collaboration between the two artists features an intense debate with the public space, while their artistic practice spans such diverse media as installation, sculpture, photography and mixed media. With the finely honed instrument of their strictly conceptual approach, they dissect the context and subtext of a place before they determine the type of intervention. Only then do they formulate their subtle reductions or expansive installations. The shift of perspective on the systems surrounding us is a key to their work. Under the expressive title *'Fixateurs externes'*, the visitor first meets what appears to be a constructivist light installation consisting of two elements arranged *contrapposto*: in the style of a product display, eight and nine neon lights respectively, once in cool white and once in pink, are hung on an aluminum construction and immerse the exhibition space in a diffuse light that makes the viewer oscillate between attraction and repulsion. Once attracted by the auspiciously harmless beauty of the candy-pink light that finds a perfect background in the shiny metal of the mounting, the shock of one's own face appearing like a blemish in the integrated mirror element, and thus the assault on one's vanity hits harder. A paradox of our modern world is revealed here: If the impeccable quality of meat in the product presentation, usually off-set by candy-pink light because it enhances reds and thus suggests freshness and non-fat, applied to the human body it achieves the opposite effect by enhancing skin impurities and leaving the complexion appear pale and pasty. It is not for nothing that candy-pink light is an often used, effective means to drive young people from public places. In the site-specific installation by Mutter/Genth, the neon tubes are mounted on a support structure, which is a free replica of the 'fixateurs externes' known from medicine: a construction of metal supports externally mounted but to work inwardly to heal fractures. Transformed in the showroom, however, the prostheses help inflicting, rather than curing, wounds. In *'Fixateurs externes'* they fix the view on the socially unnoticed inclusion and exclusion mechanisms. This is also indicated in the mirror object in the corner. Where the purpose of steel plates is to prevent unwanted dirt to gather in the right angle of the public space, as well as protect against the practice of dirty undertakings, to the artists, the mirror becomes a weapon against the codes of purity and optimisation. Or a piece of pigeon defense grid, which as new, shiny and in the vertically presented ready-made, unfolds the ambivalent magic of metallic cleanness. Paired with a bondage chain for the smallest of the vain birds, the ironic back door remains open. With their compositions of already existing objects and elements, Mutter/Genth dissolve the boundaries and rob the things of their original functionalities and give them a subversive ambiguity in order to reveal their true function in the surrounding structures and regulations. At the same time, the artists use a cool aesthetic, which consciously alludes to the sexy use of forms of the modern art world, but ultimately aims to satirise it in the affirmation of it. For the viewer who engages in this subtle strategy of aesthetic reinterpretation, the exhibition above all provides a refreshing optical correction.

*Heike Mutter born 1969 in Munich, Germany. Ulrich Genth born 1971 in Tübingen, Germany. They live and work in Hamburg, Germany.*

Lindenstraße 34  
10969 Berlin  
Germany

+49 30 2529 4095  
taubertcontemporary.com  
office@taubertcontemporary.com