

PRESS RELEASE

**GEISSLER & SANN – You Won't Fool the Children of the Revolution
2 November 2012 – 12 January 2013**

ftc. is pleased to present "You Won't Fool the Children of the Revolution", the second solo show of Beate Geissler and Oliver Sann.

Comprised of two aesthetic tropes merged in the form of an assemblage of photography and sculpture, Beate Geissler and Oliver Sann continue their artistic investigation into the amelioration of the concept of lifeforms through technological developments.

Central to the exhibition is a capacious floor piece consisting of an expansive number of computer screen elements. The work re-frames the actuality of our screen life, which, according to Karin Knorr Cetina, can be described as follows: "The screen reality is a process, but it is not simply like a river flowing from one location to another as an identical mass of water. Rather, it is processual in the sense of an infinite succession of nonidentical matter projecting itself forward as a changing situation."

In dialogue with this embodiment of performative speculation as a mode of cognition, images of chrysalises (insect pupa) are presented which build a framework for questions concerning alternative concepts of existence and life itself.

Here, the chrysalis, inactive and sessile, represents a cessation, analogous to Thomas Aquina's concept of the unmoved mover, derived from Aristotelian philosophy and one of five parts of his attempts to prove God's existence. The primary cause or "mover" of all the motion in universe, is not itself moved by any prior action.

The complete standstill in the very epicenter of all motion is also the leitmotif of Oswald Wiener's influential text "the bio-adapter" from 1965. Wiener's fragmentary piece and appendix to The Improvement of Central Europe, which posits the complete dissolution and decomposition of the human body into the technological machine, is the inspirational background for Geissler and Sann's installation as made manifest in the metamorphosis of the chrysalis. Oswald Wiener writes: "in its effect, the bio-adapter can be compared to a selectively bred uterus (»joy suit«) which, as a result of continual adaptation, is able to meet the most varied requirements of highly organized living creatures. it can be interpreted both as the hypertrophy of the modules of organs, a process which at first extends into the area of the physically external, and as the nervous structural complex of its owner, and from this point of view it is a converter of the pleasure impulses which human beings project onto their environment (»servo-narcissus«)."

A publication in English of Oswald Wiener's text, with an introduction by Siegfried Zielinski and Beate Geissler and Oliver Sann's work, is in preparation.

Beate Geissler born 1970 in Neuendettelsau, Germany.

Oliver Sann born 1968 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

They live and work in Chicago, USA.