

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

ROBERTO RIVADENEIRA

Reality Tour

Opening reception: 14th July 2023, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 14th July - 5th August 2023

Curated by Linda Toivio

In his new solo exhibition, Roberto Rivadeneira presents a body of work merging for the first time his physical and digital art practices, including a large-scale PVC print and mixed media canvases. *Reality Tour* is a step into the unknown, a brief encounter within an altered world, where our perception gets tangled and turned upside down. Drawing inspiration from a district in Berlin, the artist turns a familiar landscape into an unrecognisable and foreign dimension, while playing with perceived and hypothetical realities. The exhibition seeks to explore this fluid relationship between reality, perception and the transformative nature of space.

Rivadeneira takes as starting point the medium of photography in random areas of Kreuzberg. Using a digital camera, he takes hundreds of shots of the surroundings, capturing mundane scenes of no particular interest that many locals pass by without consideration. Although living side by side, we do not observe or appreciate the same details, unless they happen to represent something significant or personal on our path. These multiple realities that we each come across as participants, onlookers or solely as passers-by, are either full or void of meaning, as our spatiotemporal experience and the relevance of a place or event are unique to each of us. Rivadeneira's aim is to find a way to change the perception of something we see every day.

In the next stage of the process, he selects the images best representing his vision of the city, before manipulating them in order to trigger their interconnectedness. For the purpose of *Reality Tour*, only one image of the Landwehr Canal serves as the foundation for all the artworks. The impulse to *Reality Tour* and Rivadeneira's new works stems from Daniel Richter's concept: how far can you go with just one image? Around 2021-2022, Richter created a series of paintings and drawings based on one cheap postcard from the First World War, showing two injured soldiers on crutches and with missing legs. Following this idea, all Rivadeneira's works on display are also based on one image, but instead of repeatedly painting it, he attempts to entirely deconstruct the concept and common perception of an image we encounter frequently. He is using one element and exploring its specific possibilities and limitations, by bending and stretching the image, until it takes on new forms, potentially losing its original character and meaning.

By means of technology, the image blurs into an abstract version of space, where the exhibition encompasses multiple canvases and prints within the site-specific installation. The ten-metre long printed PVC is the only artwork where the entire image of the Landwehr Canal is fully visible. Laid out on the wooden floorboards of the vessel, the audience is encouraged to step on the upscaled print, breaking the two-dimensionality for an immersive experience of the installation. The paintings all feature different cut-outs or sections of the manipulated image. The sections are printed on canvases and the artist then proceeds to paint on top with oil colours.

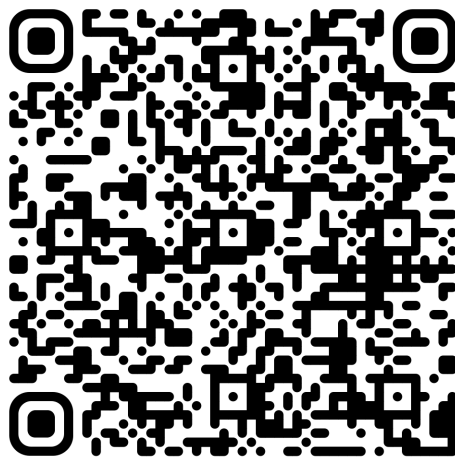
The result is a fusion of abstract imagery and traditional painting techniques, offering an alternative perspective and spatial understanding.

Challenging the flatness of conventional painting, Rivadeneira is inviting us to contemplate on different viewpoints and preconceived notions of our daily environment. Based on one image, he is choosing a direction to follow, experimenting with radical ways of seeing and perceiving, sometimes on the verge of psychedelia. Recognising multiple ways of interacting with the same urban milieu, he consequently acknowledges the existence of parallel realities and perspectives, which he presents to us within a distorted digital landscape.

Text © Linda Toivio

Hošek Contemporary

Established by Petr Hošek in 2016, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific pieces, performing arts and experimental sound works. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international musicians.



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