LIQUID GENDER
FABIAN VOGLER
CURATED BY CATERINA TOMEO

with a sound installation by Francesco Giannico and a photography feature by Bianca Kennedy
“Liquid Gender” broaches a social issue that, in our times, can be discussed openly in Europe. The sculptures for the “third sex” by Fabian Vogler thus encourage a reflection on the diversity of aspects of sexuality and its relevance in our society. A freer society, in which every individual, regardless of their gender, ethnic or religious affiliation can be realized equally within the framework of the prevailing legal system itself.

The exposition, abroad, of Fabian Vogler’s works equally emphasizes the image of a modern Germany and of a modern Europe. In these times of increasing populism and polarizing political and social debate, the artistic representation with an associated open social discussion encourage acceptance and tolerance. The exhibition thus sets a valuable mark against the social exclusion of minorities.

Theodor Proffe
Cónsul General Adjunto
Miniature Menina | 1
2016 • bronze • 18 x 11 x 6,5 cm

Miniature Menina | 2
2016 • bronze • 20,5 x 10 x 10 cm

Miniature Menina | 3
2016 • bronze • 18 x 11 x 6,5 cm
Form, Figure, Ambiguity
Fabian Vogler’s work on human genders/sexes
by Dr. Katinka Schweizer

Human shapes, figures and genders/sexes is a topic Fabian Vogler has been engaged with for many years. He created explicitly hybrid sexual creatures for the first time ten years ago, as a progression of his interest in androgyny, which then became visible in his “London Skateboard Girls”. Playfully, the series around “Dittmar’s brother’s travels” came along who seem to try to cross gender/sex boundaries. Vogler’s “Meninas” face us many-facetedly across an interdisciplinary and media-spanning multi-channel projection – partly physically, partly digitally. Sizewise, his “Miniature Meninas” show a connection to the archaically seeming series “Inter*Venus”. It is no surprise in this way that Fabian Vogler, once again, dedicates himself to the issue of intersex, and thus moving further in the field of ambiguous and diverse sex development.

In the summer of 2016, in a gallery talk at Espronceda in Barcelona, he recalled the zero point of his new project “Liquid Gender”: “Perhaps this was the moment when I started to question the gender of my figures”. Questioning the gender/sex of one’s works of art may be somewhat comparable to
addressing questions in respect of one’s own gender/sex. Why are we so sure of who we are and to which gender/sex we belong? – This question is the central focus of our joint project “Menschengeschlechter. Sculptures. Spaces. Encounters”, where the topic of intersex meets with scientific, experience based approaches as well as experimental, artistic ones.

Despite being nothing new, intersex is a phenomenon that socially still seems to be subject to denial and taboos. Since ancient times there have been individuals with characteristics of both main sexes. For a long time, the medical profession regarded intersexuality and hermaphroditism as an umbrella term for various manifestations of physical sex characteristics and organs not corresponding to one or the same sex. The anatomically visible and the non-visible genetic sex do not have to “match” – the exterior genitals and the inner genital structures, such as gonads, can be ambiguous, female, male, or intersex appearing.

The exhibition “Liquid Gender” is one of the first visible milestones of the project “Menschengeschlechter” we have embarked on together. Questions are raised regarding the certainty of forms, sexes, and identities. I am hoping for an interested and attentive audience, and am very pleased to see how the beauty of varied sexes and/or genders can become visible.

September • 2016
Menina | 7 in the North Frisian Watten  
2014 • bronze • 114 x 77 x 46 cm
Menina  |  1
2013-16  • plaster  •  94,5 x 44,5 x 40 cm

Menina  |  3
2013-16  • plaster  •  140 x 92,5 x 48 cm
Dittmar’s Brother Andrea in Barcelona
2014 • bronze • 13,5 x 7 x 6,5 cm

Dittmar’s Brother Wilbur in San Francisco • installation view
Dittmar’s Brother Maibert in Leipzig

Dittmar’s Brother Roger in Cape Town

Dittmar’s Brother Freimut in Berlin

Dittmar’s Brother Roger in South Africa

Dittmar’s Brother Roger at Afrikaburn
Dittmar’s Brother in Rome and in the Vatican

Dittmar’s Brother Marlene in Athens
A sneak preview show of Liquid Gender was supported by the University of Surrey’s Institute of Advanced Study and the Wellcome Trust as part of the conference Intersex. After the Recognition of Human Rights at the University of Surrey: The Third Annual Meeting of the group EuroPSI.

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