

Maciej Gąbka

Portfolio 2024

www.maciejgabka.com

Statement

He is an intermedia artist; author of sculptures, objects and photographs. A graduate of the Department of Graphic Art and Visual Communication in the area of Artistic Graphics (2017) and the Department of New Media in the area of Intermedia (2020) of the University of Arts in Poznan. In his artistic practice, he uses various materials, on which he works together with teams of subcontractors using the latest technologies.

In his conceptual practice, Maciej Gąbka investigates the impact of normative systems on the society - the ethical and moral qualification of norms by people. Gąbka concentrates on exploring and understanding the factors that push people to make everyday decisions, judgments, or give them a sense of duty to perform specific actions. He also touches on issues related to the possibility of interpreting the outside world (including the world of things) through norms. Gąbka often approaches this area of his interest by referring to the materiality of objects and patterns present in visual culture.



b. 1993; Lives and works in Warsaw

education:

2020 MFA Intermedia, University of Fine Art in Poznan

2017 MFA Graphic Arts, University of Fine Art in Poznan

prizes and grants:

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage scholarship

Finalist of 15th and 18th edition of Hestia Artistic Journey Competition, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw

Finalist of 40th Edition of Maria Dokowicz Competition

Finalist of Alicja Kepinska Award (2017; 2020)

Nominated to Esteemed Graduates of Academies of Fine Arts

President of University of Fine Art in Gdansk Prize on X Student Graphic Biennale

selected exhibitions:

2023 Takas (The Path), International Contemporary Art Fair ArtVilnius

2022 Get out of the path, Spectra Art Space (Starak Family Foundation), Warsaw (solo exhibition)

2022 The 40th Edition of Maria Dokowicz Competition, Poznan

2020 Familiar feeling, Rodriguez Gallery, Poznan (solo exhibition)

2020 Unessensial, SKALA, Poznan

2020 In praise of transience, 01_Gallery

2019 Warsaw Art Fair, Royal Castle, Warsaw

2019 18th edition of Hestia Artistic Journey Competition, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw

2019 MESH, Polonez, Poznan

2018 Hybridity in graphics, Wozownia Gallery, Torun

2018 Triennial of Polish Graphics, Muzeum Śląskie, Katowice

2018 International Print Triennial Color in Graphic Art, Wozownia Gallery, Torun

2018 Voyager's Record, SKALA, Poznan (Poznan Art Week)

2018 After Positive, AT Gallery, Poznan (solo exhibition)

2018 After Positive, Art Pavilion ERGO Hestia, Warsaw (solo exhibition)

2018 Best Polish Diploma – Graphic, SMTG, Cracow

2017 Esteemed Graduates of Academies of Fine Arts, Zbrojownia Sztuki, Gdansk

2017 Différance, Arsenal Gallery, Poznan (solo exhibition)

2017 X Student Graphic Biennale, Arsenal Gallery, Poznan

2017 II International Student Drawing Triennial, Rondo Sztuki, Katowice

2016 15th edition of Hestia Artistic Journey Competition, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw

2015 IX Student Graphic Biennale, Arsenal Gallery, Poznan

Get out of the path

site-specific installation, Spectra Art Space (Starak Family Foundation), 2022;
relief objects

documentation: Grzegorz Demczuk, Paweł Bobrowski

Get out of the path is another project in which I examine the flexibility of the meaning of the concept of norm and normativity, as well as the power of authority of socially binding rules that push people to act, look, speak or think in a certain way. The leitmotiv of this series are the laws that rule contemporary design - abstract forms that are drawn from the world of objects, which become repetitive solutions used when designing objects of everyday use around us.

In the context of the maniacal duplication of patterns of visual culture, the title of this series refers to the replacement of the artist's mythical gesture with a 'path' (a term used in Adobe Illustrator) tread in the graphic design, along which the cutting-head of a robot cuts out compositions.

Text for the *Get out of the path* exhibition, Spectra Art Space (Starak Family Foundation), 2022





Get out of the path, Spectra Art Space (Starak Family Foundation), 155 x 700 cm, wood, acrylic, plexiglass, 2022

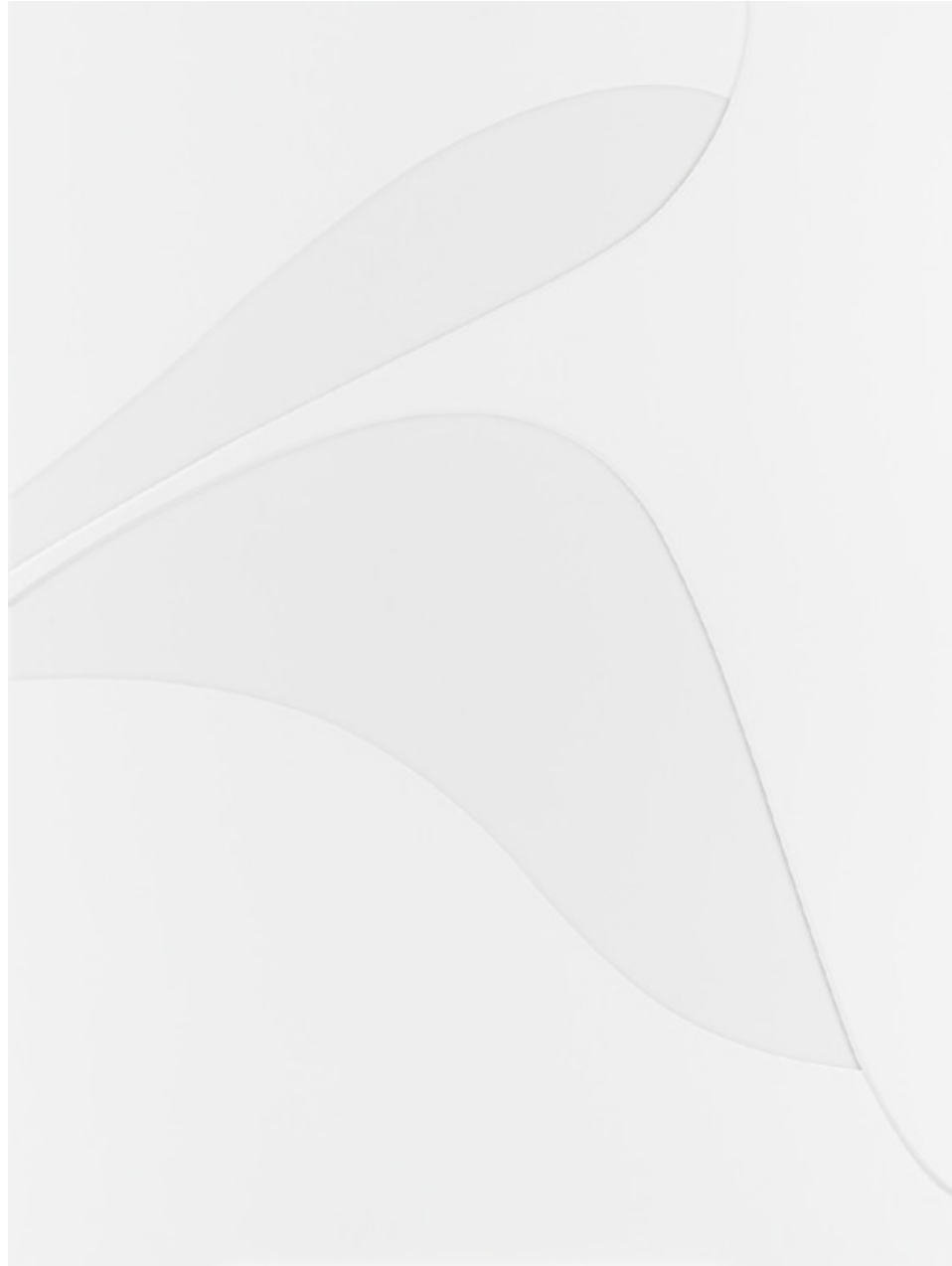








Untitled XVI (Get out of the path), 120 x 90 x 5,5 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, plexiglass, 2022



Untitled XVII (Get out of the path), 120 x 90 x 5,5 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, plexiglass, 2022



Untitled XXX (Get out of the path), 120 x 90 x 5,5 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, plexiglass, 2023







Untitled XXIX (Get out of the path), 120 x 90 x 5,5 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, plexiglass, 2023



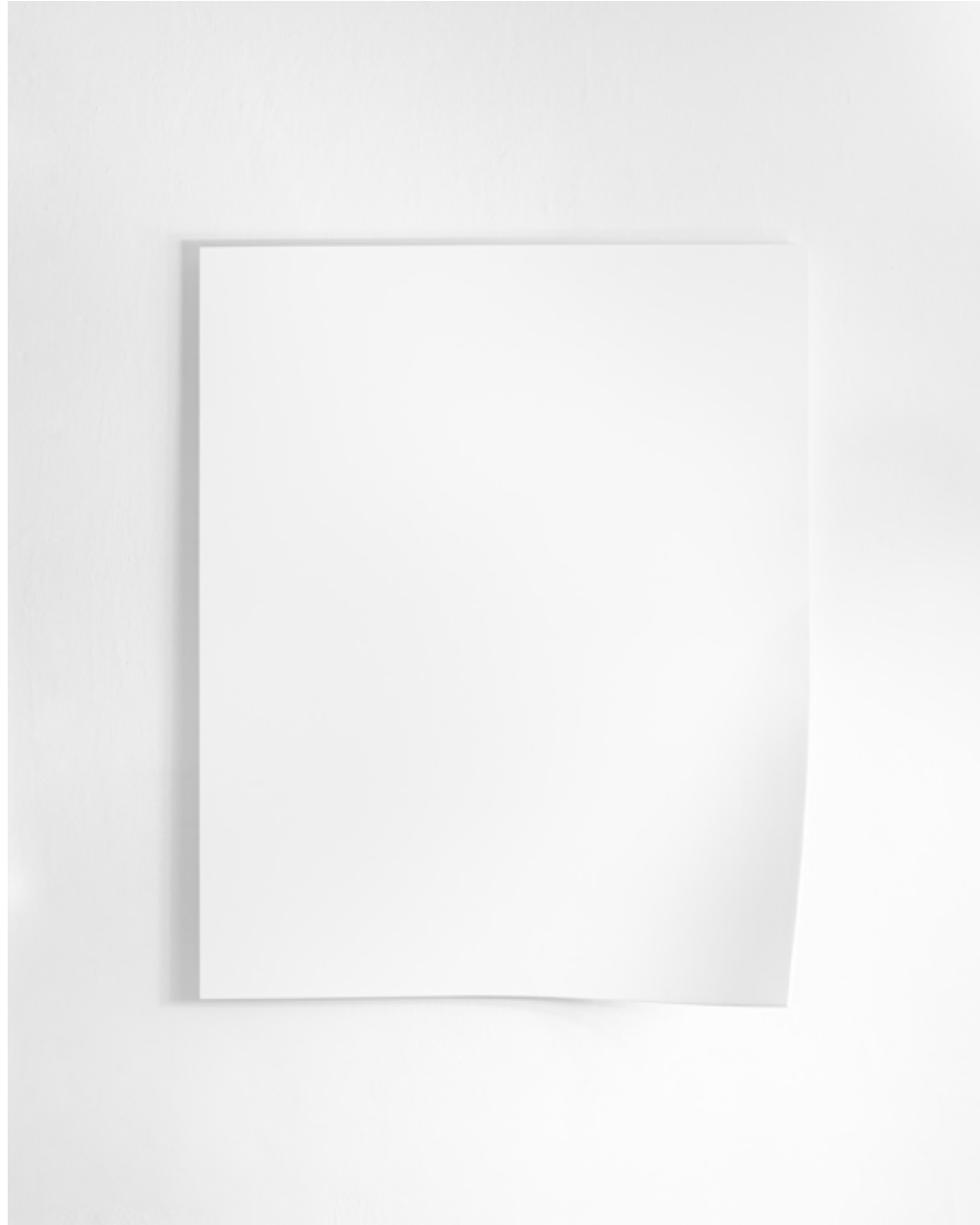








Untitled XXIII (Get out of the path), 12 x 53 x 12 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, plexiglass, 2023



Untitled XXIV (Get out of the path), 92 x 75 x 20 cm, wood, polyurethane paint, 2023



Familiar feeling

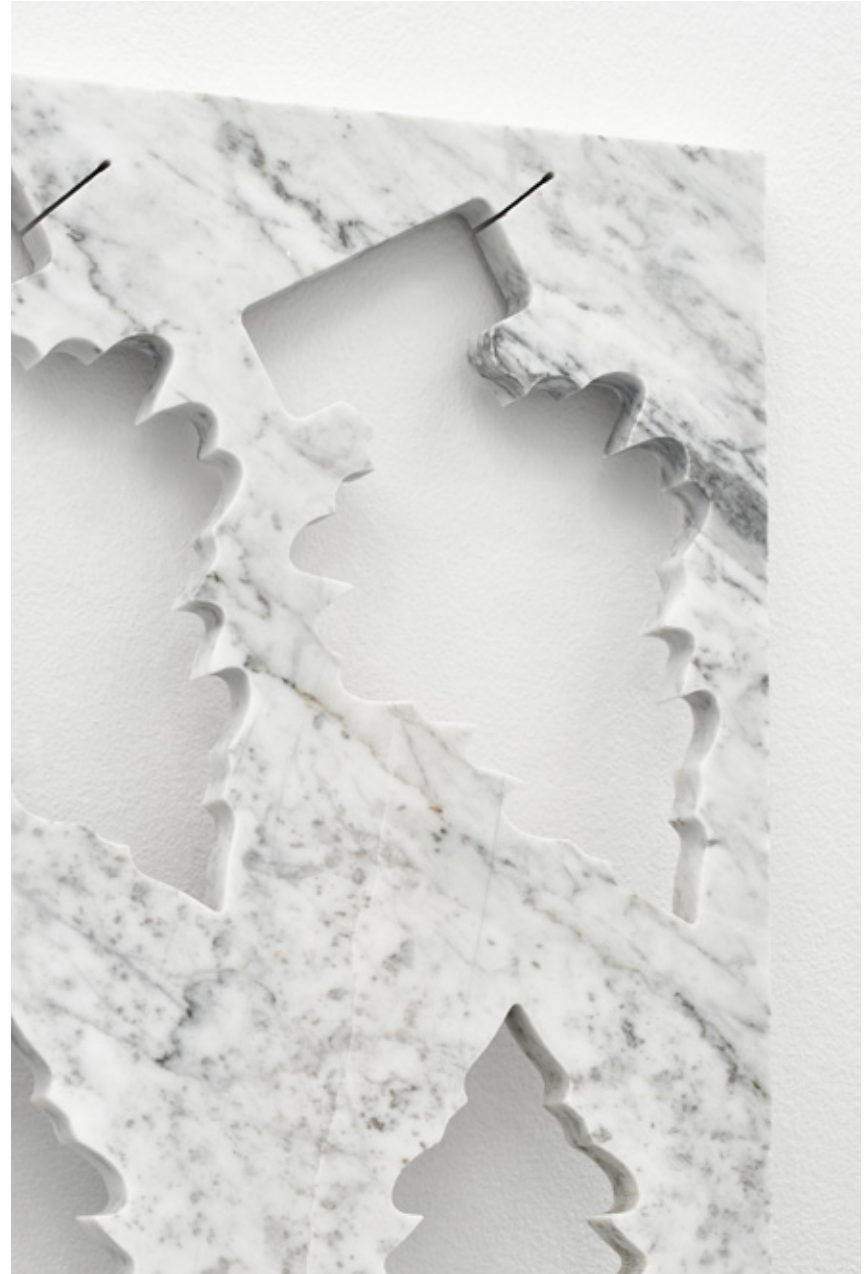
Rodriguez Gallery, 2020

documentation: Tomasz Koszewnik

Apparently, the process of defining the concept of 'norm' brings hesitation whether this concept might entail the liar paradox or the illusion of truth. Apart from the overriding task of a 'norm', which comes down to - paradoxically as it sounds - standardization and imposing of certain ideals, a series of multiplying contradictions should therefore be expected within the limits of the 'norm'. Dedicating even a relatively small amount of time to its importance allows to notice some of the incongruencies. Normative absurdities are hidden in the form of linguistic constructions that lost all the value; gestures that turn into shallow automatisms, objects that became completely indifferent to us, or absurd human aspirations that only prove the authoritarian influence of norms.

Familiar Feeling are visualizations of particular representations of normative behaviors. The model way of depicting art was used to exhibit objects whose content refers to model thinking through the prism of the cultural norms that surround us.

Text for the exhibition *Familiar feeling*, Rodriguez Gallery, 2020

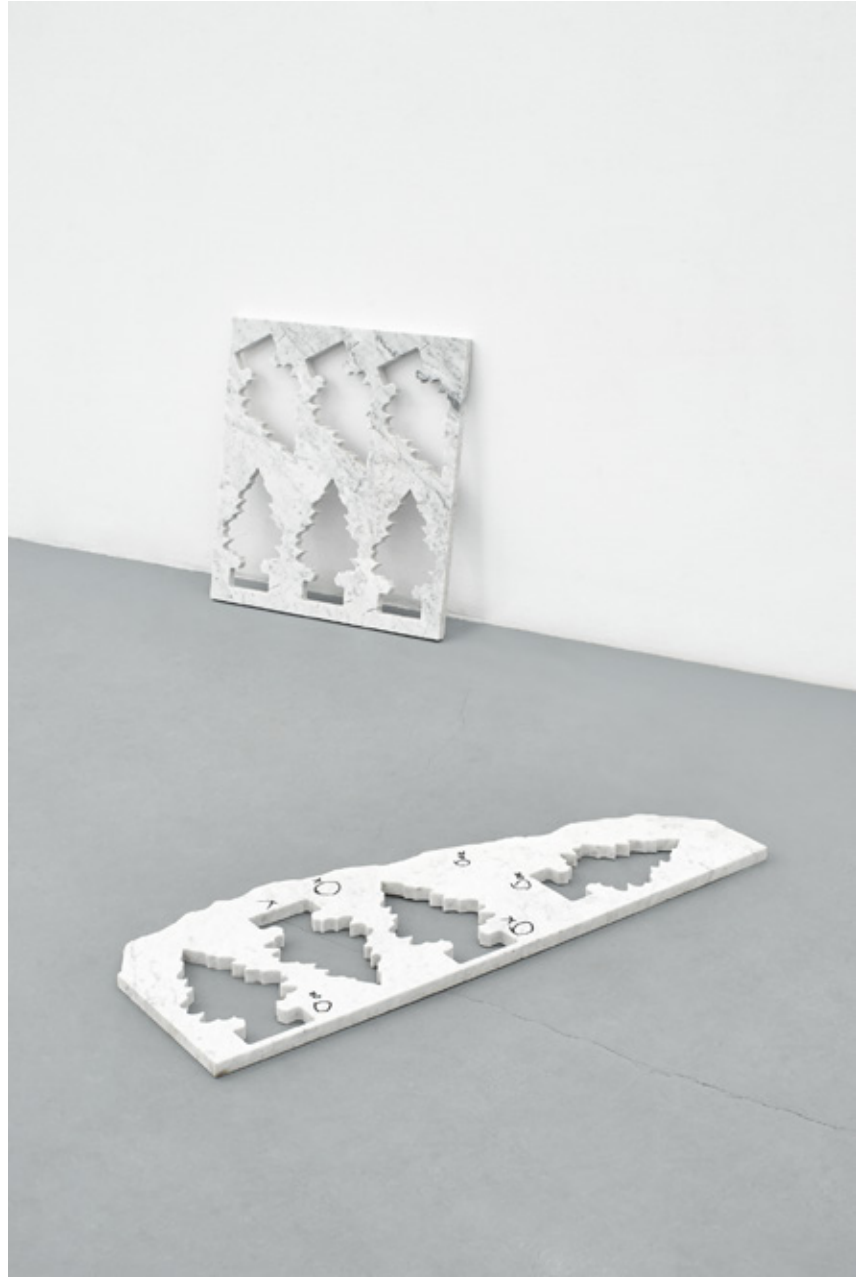


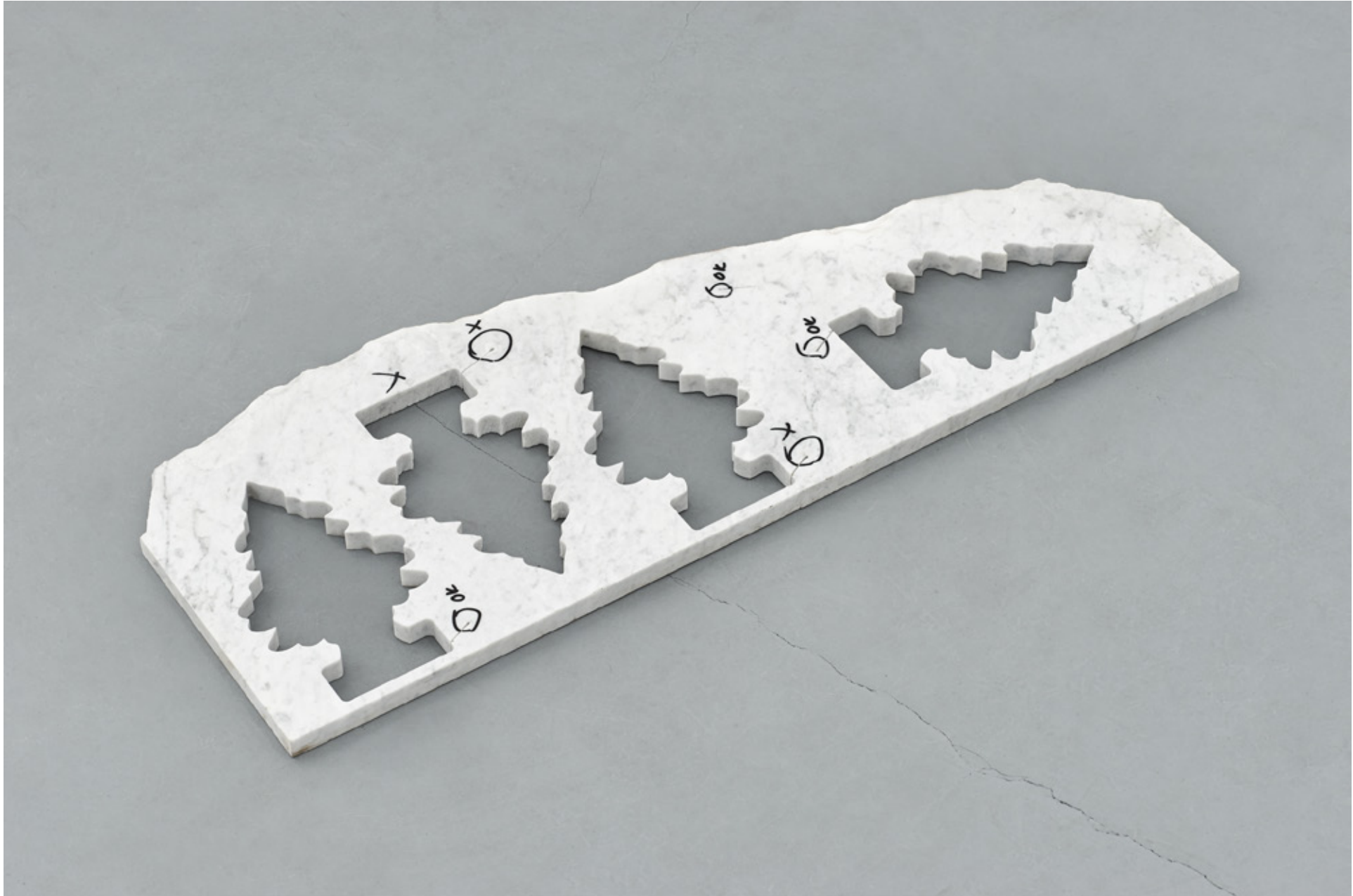


Familiar feeling, Rodriguez Gallery, 2020

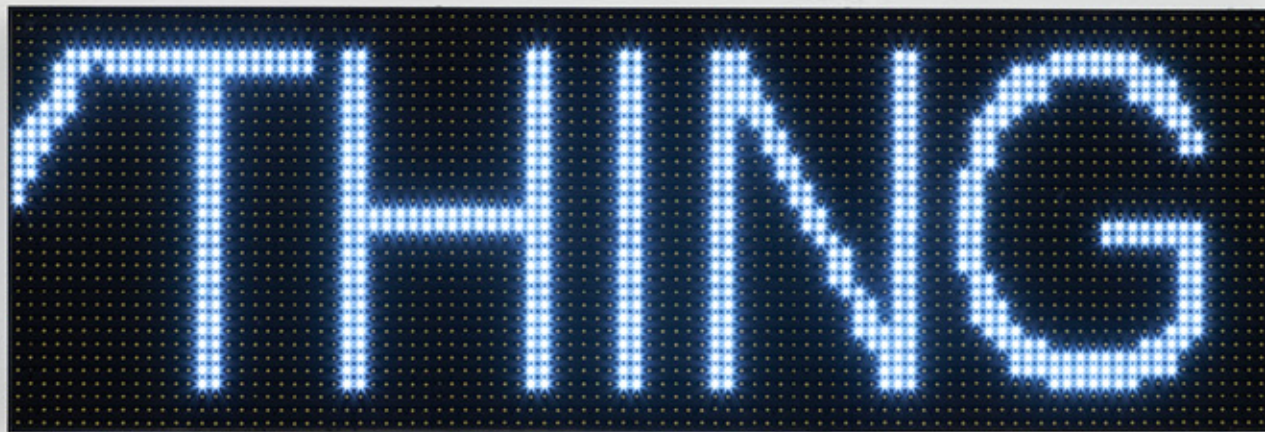










A rectangular LED screen with a black background and a grid of small, glowing blue dots. The word "THING" is displayed in a pixelated, blue font. The screen is mounted on a light-colored wall, and a thin white cable is visible on the right side.

Everything is just fine. You have lifetime guarantee, 32 x 96 x 10 cm, led screen P10, 2020



Familiar feeling (Iphone 8), 60 x 46 cm, pigment print, 2020



Familiar feeling (USB 2.0), 50 x 72 cm, pigment print, 2020



Familiar feeling (Memory card), 50 x 72 cm, pigment print, 2020



Familiar feeling (Standard networking device), 50 x 72 cm, pigment print, 2020



Familiar feeling (Fintrop; 365+), 50 x 72 cm, pigment print, 2020



Soft touch I, 25 x 145 x 95 cm, UV print on synthetic material, 2020







Soft touch II, 145 x 72,5 x 5 cm, UV print on synthetic material, 2020





Soft touch III, 5 x 110 x 30 cm, UV print on synthetic material, 2020





Familiar feeling (Wunder-baum), 29,5 x 75 x 1,6 cm, marble, 2019



Familiar feeling (Wunder-baum), 47 x 43,5 x 1,6 cm, marble, 2019



Familiar feeling (Wunder-baum), 20 x 11,8 x 2 cm (each), marble, 2019





Non-functional objects

satin stainless steel sculptures, 2019

documentation: Tomasz Koszewnik

The relationship that is established between a person and an object is the result of prior empirical examining its material properties. Objects become integrated with generally accepted norms, which define the cognitive attitude in a given environment and thanks to this integration, the recipient is able to connect the presented objects to their original function and place them in a conventional, everyday scenery. The slightest intervention on the marked element is tantamount to knocking the viewer out of his visual habits and creating a new mechanism of learning (comprehending) his own environment.

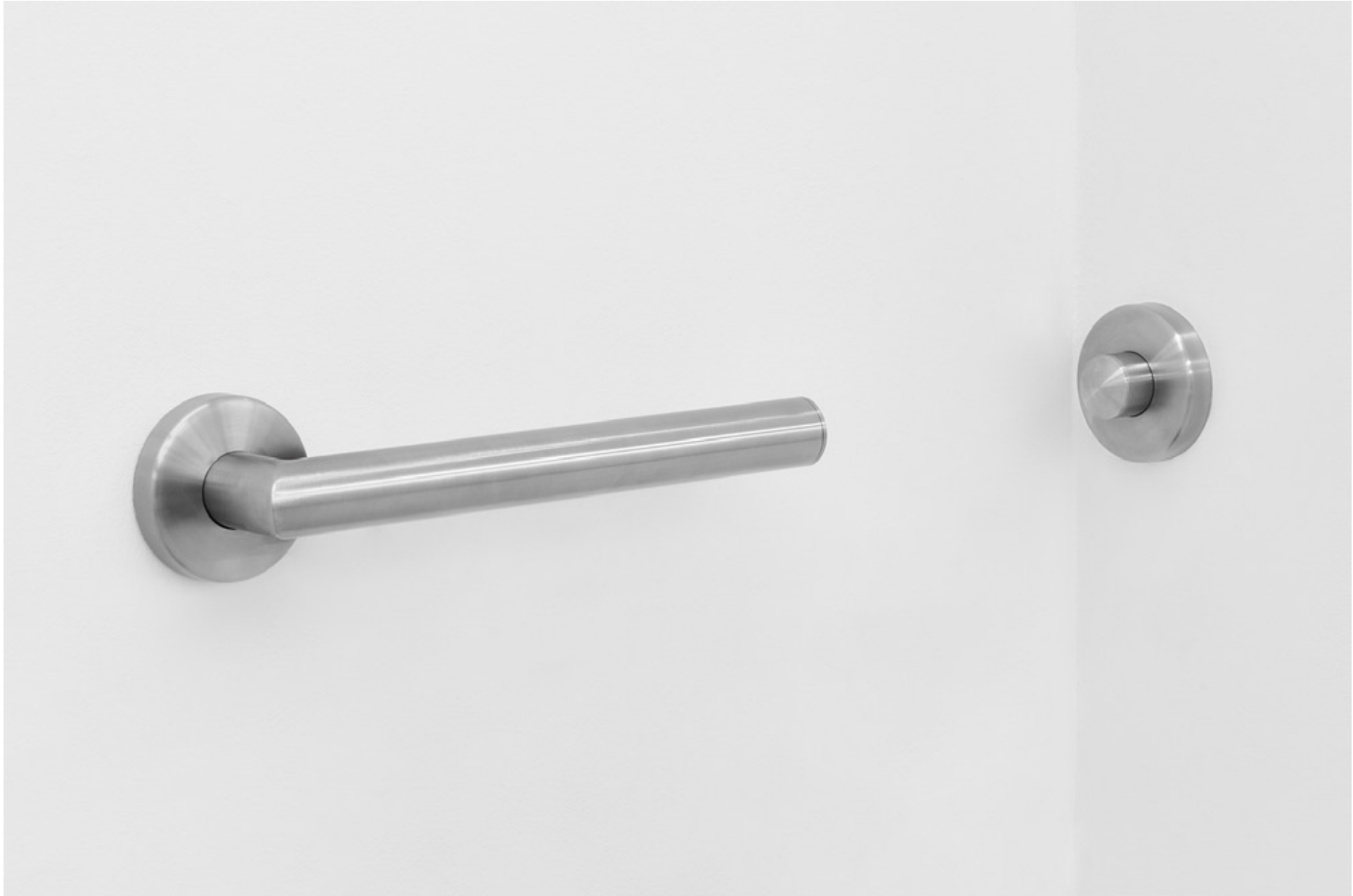
The designed objects, thanks to the possibility of configuring them and their universal character, have the ability to adapt to any space.

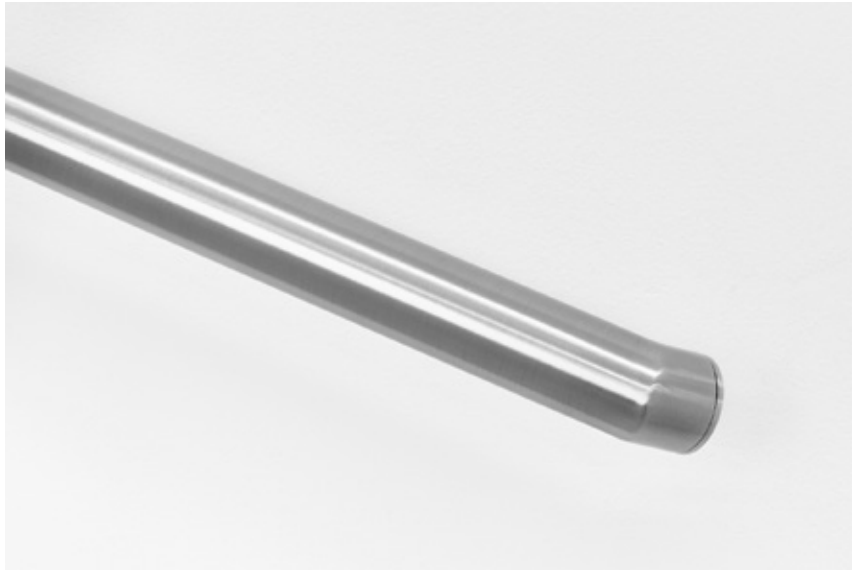


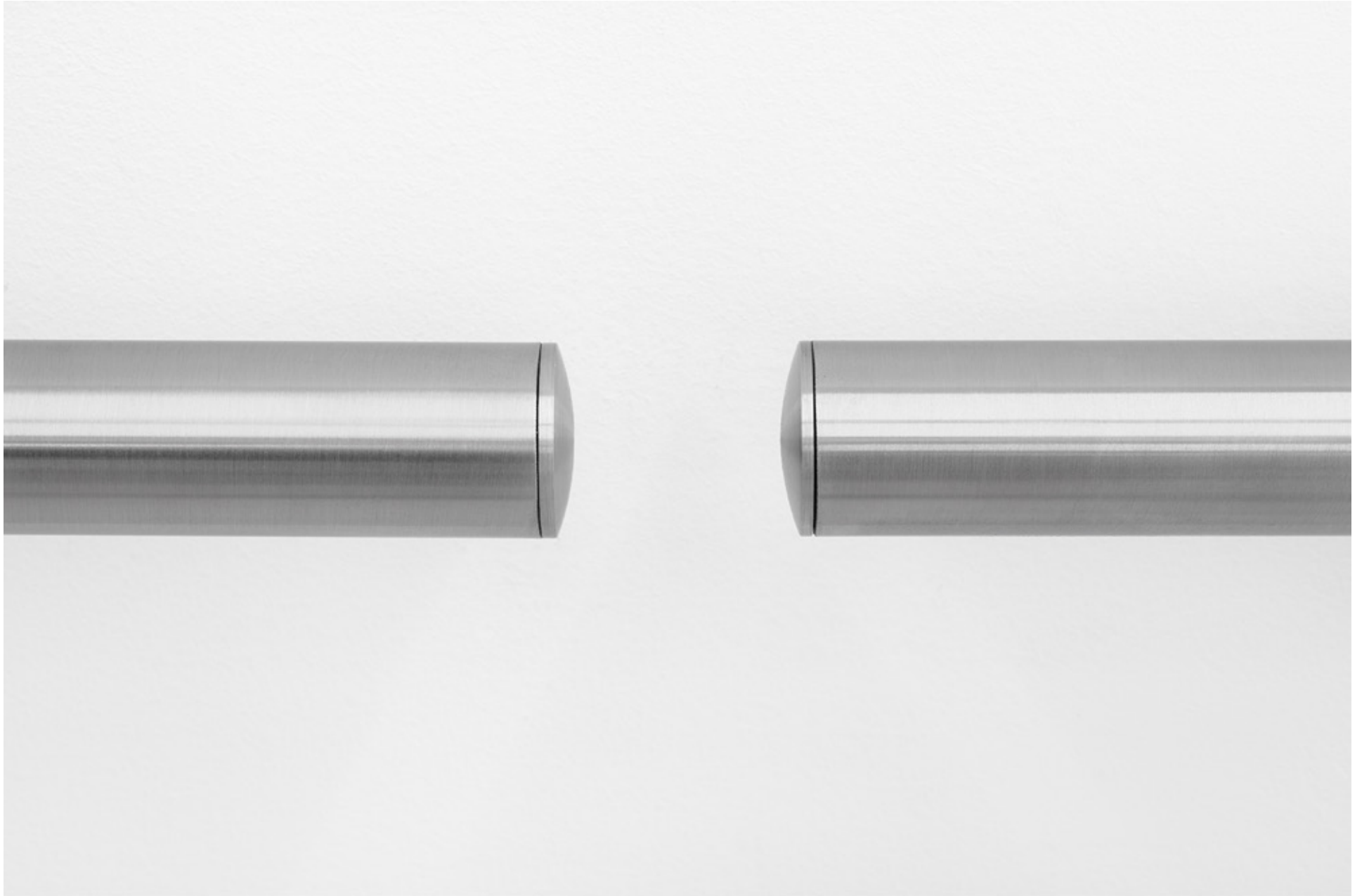


Non-functional objects, variable dimensions, satin stainless steel, 2019









After positive

satin stainless steel and plexiglass sculptures, 2019

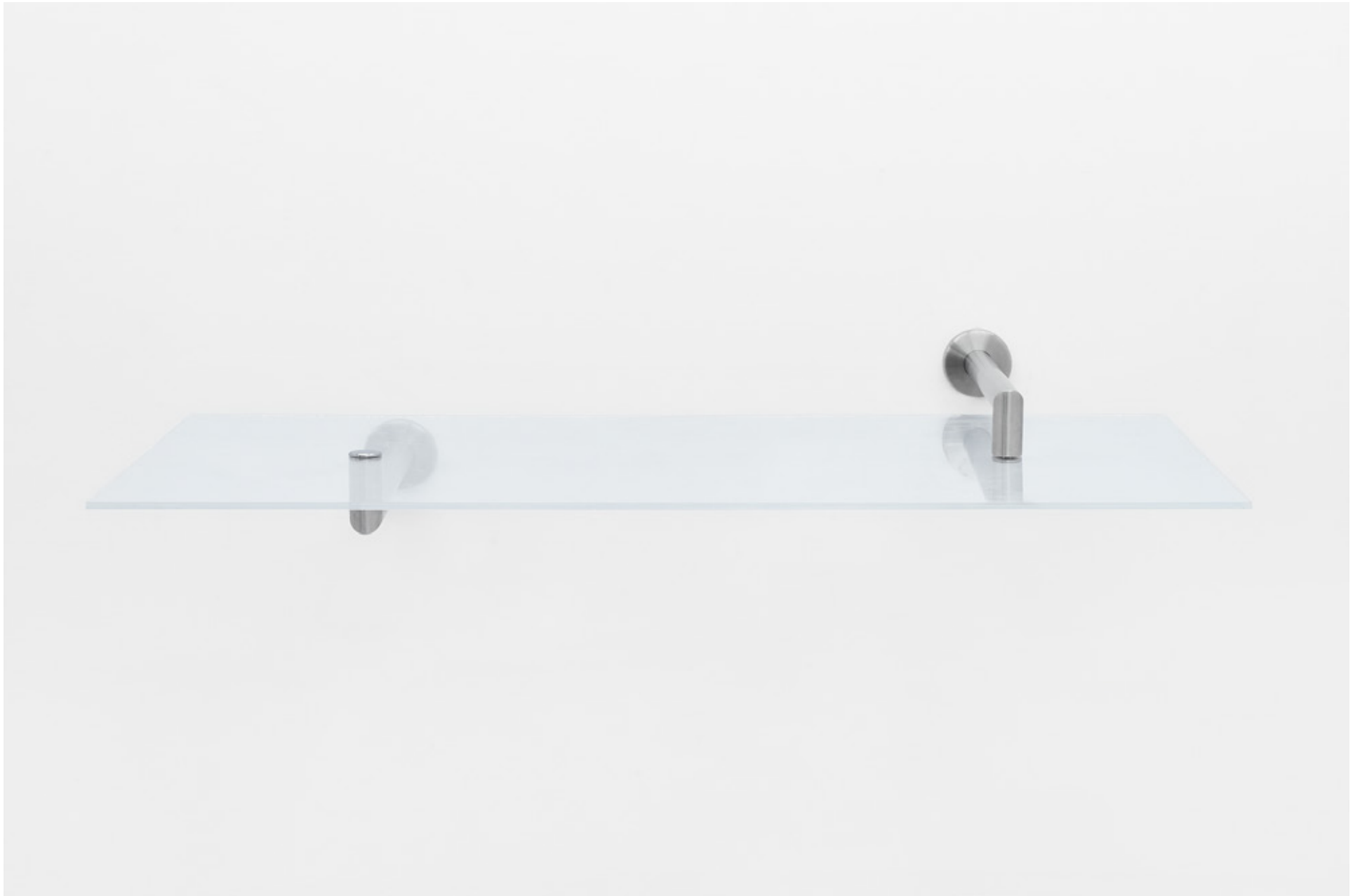
documentation: Tomasz Koszewnik

The installations juxtapose two, extremely different, contradictory materials in a subtle, but at the same time expressive way. The metal elements extract from the surroundings those phenomena that are usually overlooked by the viewer. The material properties of the artwork that is usually marginalized and escapes human attention becomes highlighted, thus questioning the potential of a human being to explore its immediate surroundings.





Untitled LXIII, 30 x 140 x 83 cm, satin stainless steel, plexiglass, 2019





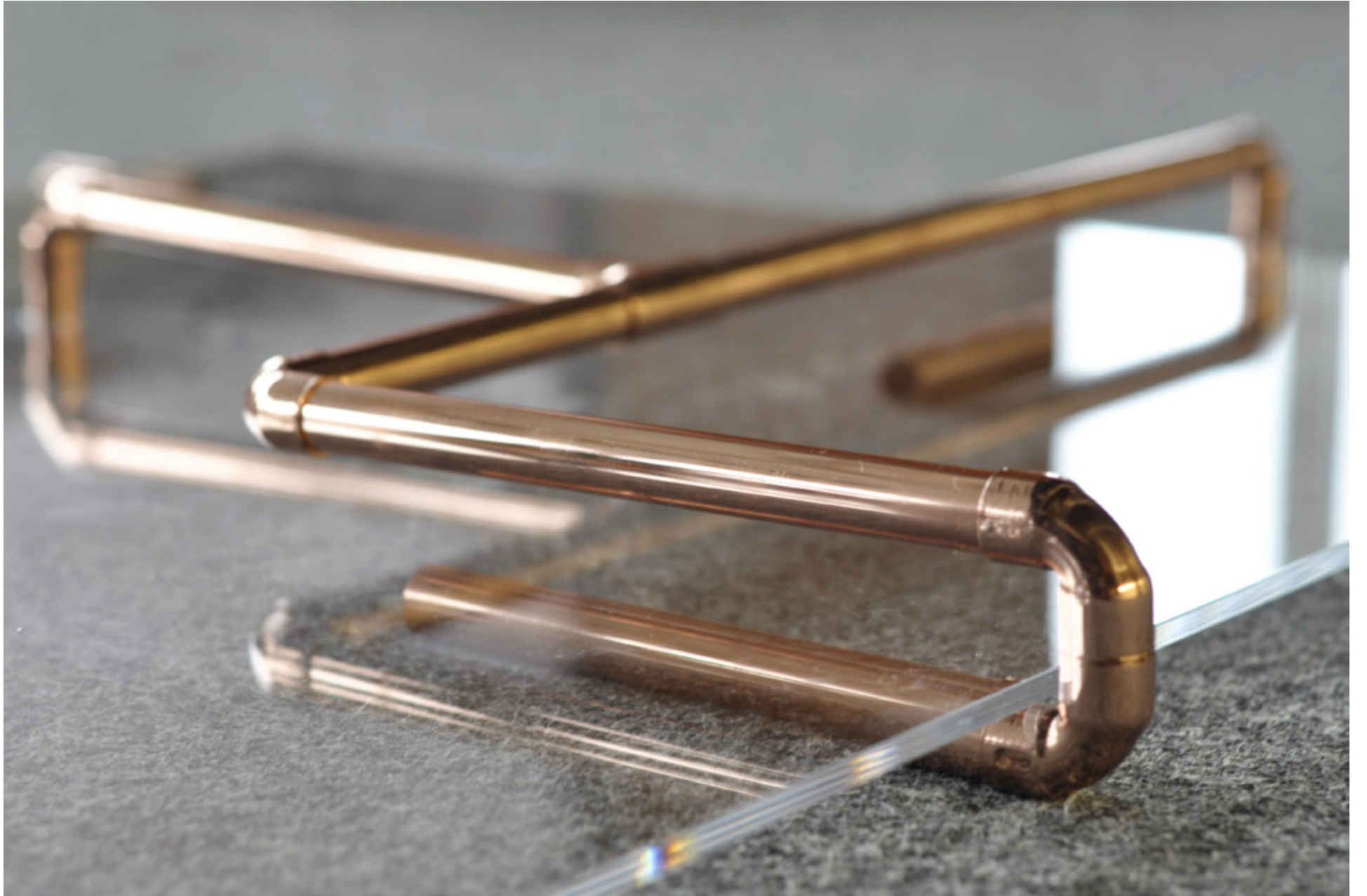


Untitled CIII, 45 x 68 10 cm, satin stainless steel, plexiglass, 2019





Untitled CLXVIII, 6 x 80 x 60 cm, plexiglass, copper, 2019





After positive

Art Pavilion ERGO Hestia, 2018

documentation: Piotr Litwic

After Positive deceives us a bit by blurring the clarity of the border between presence and absence. It suggests that our habit of perceiving the positive as strongly present in reality should not be so obvious. In his practice Maciej Gabka conceives the strategy of combining white and transparent surfaces differently. His artwork throws us off the scent. It puts us in a situation of permanent doubt and forces us to pose questions concerning the (non)presence. His works require active stance from us, because these works balance between materiality and dematerialization. They play with our inclinations to declare with confidence that something is or is not. Consequently, his multimedia practice asserts that doubt may be an inspiring and positive aspect of the human condition.

An excerpt from Marta Smolińska's text *After Positive: In Praise of Doubt* accompanying the Maciej Gabka's solo exhibition in the Art Pavilion ERGO Hestia in 2018





After positive, Art Pavilion ERGO Hestia, 2018







AFTER POSITIVE

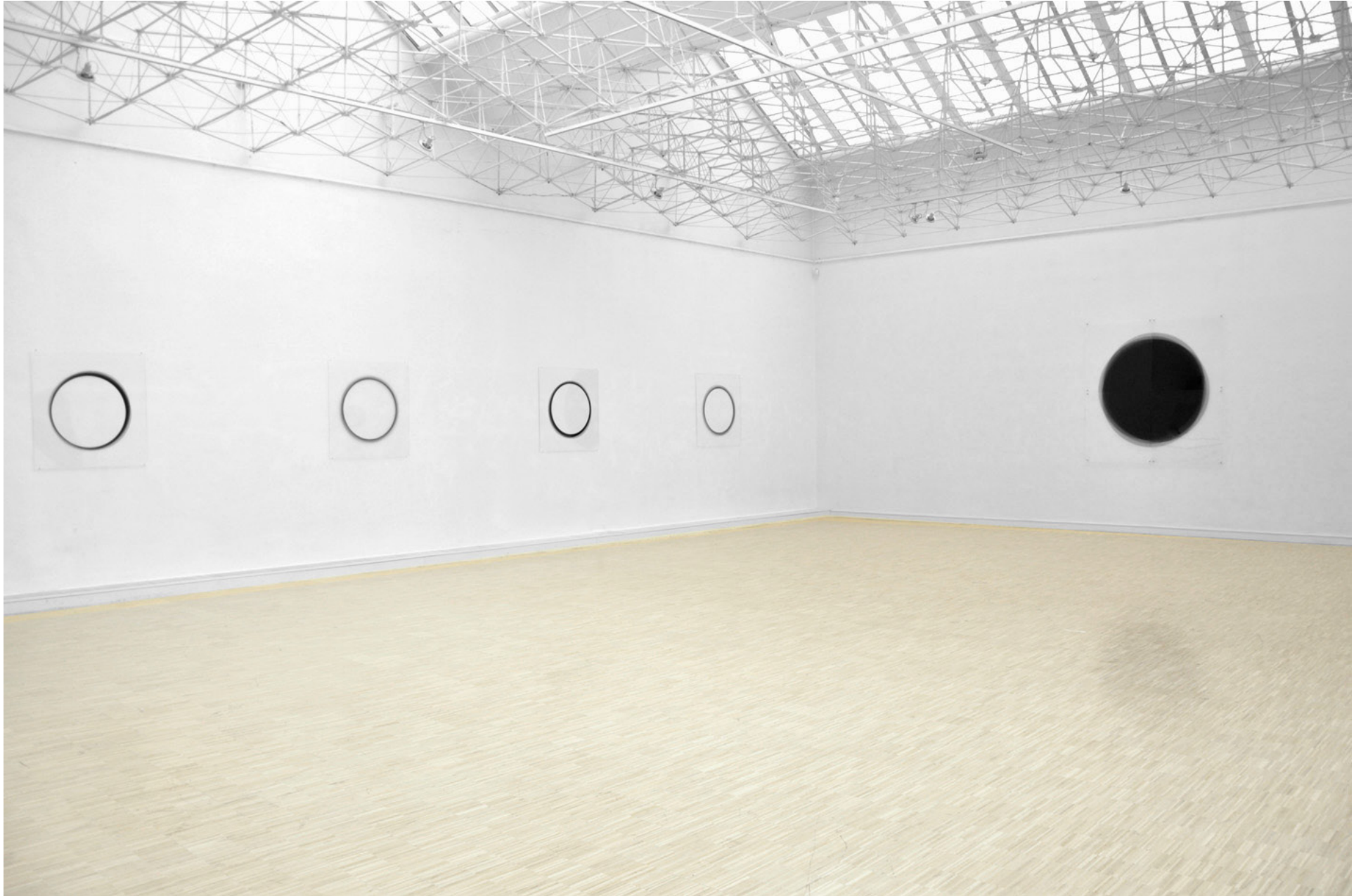


Différance

Arsenal Gallery, 2017

One of the author's fundamental assumptions is to cast doubt on the deeply entrenched binary system in our culture in the cognitive context. The artist refers to two contrasting positions using a paraphrase of the terms positive and negative. The positive image relates to empirical knowledge – finite, complete, while its opposite is a created image that refers to negativite. By expanding the meanings of these graphic terms, we encounter the dialectics of two conflicting attitudes that function within the realm of a single work of art. The main purpose of the author's use of epistemological metaphor is to pose the question of what lies between positivite and negativite. The gradual transition from transparent matter, through semi-transparent blacks, to its profound value, is synonymous with uncertain movement between positivite and negativite; what we automatically call truth and falsehood.





Différance, Arsenal Gallery, 2017









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