

ARTFORUM

Philipp Fürhofer

NOTFAIR GALLERY

via Broletto, 26

December 1–January 30

Philipp Fürhofer's solo exhibition "Life Is Out There" consists of three paintings on light boxes, one sculpture, and a new installation. The artist paints on acrylic glass and employs a reflective film, known as "spy mirror," which he uses to coat the interior of the pictorial support. Smartly, Fürhofer presents a duality in these works: smooth (and picturesque) on one side, textured (and sublime and terrible) on the other. Yet it is the project room—a former concierge's desk in this historic building in the center of Milan—that contains the exhibition's site-specific installation, *Untitled*, 2009, which more clearly reveals the idea of the discovery of a realm "beyond" the canvas. Here Fürhofer establishes a dialogue with this ample cubic space, delimited by two masonry walls and two glass walls that measure over one hundred square feet with a ceiling about thirteen feet high. Treating the volume of the space as a gigantic light box, the artist covered the two glass surfaces with reflective film, crammed the interior with black electric cables and low-energy lightbulbs, and painted the walls with drawings of "black undergrowth," as Anna Mecugni writes in the catalogue text. His use of references is lavish—from German Romanticism to Dada and contemporary assemblage. But perhaps the most significant theme in the show, which also relates to the focus of this young gallery, is that of production. Fürhofer successfully shifts our attention from the finished work to the idea of the work itself.

Translated from Italian by Marguerite Shore.

— Paola Nicolini



Philipp Fürhofer, 6X36W, 2009, acrylic and oil on spy mirror, light box, newspaper, pencil, 71 x 63 x 6".

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