

Julian Göthe - The Fat Shadow
Exhibition: Sept 18 - Oct 31, 2021

Lorenzo Bernet - suns.works
Zollikerstrasse 249, 8008 Zürich

In the invitation video for this show, the song called “Il cielo in una stanza” by the singer Gino Paoli plays in the background. It’s a swooning love song that celebrates romance and its power to bring the sky into the room and render possible other chamber dreams:

When you are here with me
This room doesn't have walls anymore
But trees, infinite trees

It’s in a similar vein that Julian Göthe’s new spatial installation sets out to transform the main gallery’s room and take the visitor elsewhere. By the means of screws and black polyester rope, the artist creates an extensive scenography of wall patterns and sequences of interiors with archways, dents and folding screens; but in a moment’s time, these patterns can disintegrate into abstract polygonal shapes.

Framed by these cords are a number of new wall works by Göthe that add yet another spatial level. The bases of these pieces are monochromous prints of various stylized interiors, reminiscent of dream homes from the 20s to the 60s, that are crammed full of objects and references—as they would be found in interior design magazines such as *World of Interiors*. These rooms are overshadowed by phantom-like slabs of black fabric that are collaged onto their surface. In many cases, two rectangular pictures are conjoined to a single piece, their interiors colliding. Sometimes, these rectangular pieces contain details of bodies in copper engravings; habitations of another kind, thus producing a shift across the works between intimate space and theatrical stage. What these works together seem to show us: depending on how and how much we see, chambers change.

In the rear corners of the room —off-stage, so to speak—various project sketches and notes from the artist’s studio production process are publicly exhibited for the first time. What these sketches bring to light is Göthe’s long-lasting practice of realizing commissioned projects: sketches for the play *Ermione* that range from wild costume ideas, prop designs, and fantastical figures to entire stage worlds for *Don Giovanni*, as well as the sketches for a commissioned sculpture now permanently installed in the club Berghain. These sketches show us the different working fields and methods of Julian Göthe, alternating between fastidious drafts and playful sketching, between project and capriccio. They also reflect that the artist’s interests are not limited to the realm of fine arts, but comprise theatre, interior design, and music, among others. As his stage work plays such a vital role in Göthe’s creative process, this show can be said to realign his artistic practice and his work in the field of performing arts, showing us both the shadow and the limelight.

Text by Raphael Tandler

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Julian Goethe *1966, lives and works in Berlin, is a professor at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna. Recent exhibitions include "Julian Göthe" at Deborah Schamoni hosting CHARIM GALLERY, 2021, Munich DE, 2021; "Archivraum" Kunstverein München, Munich DE, 2020; "Lonesome Echo", Galerie der Stadt Schwaz AT, 2019; "Their Terrain", Galerie Buchholz, Berlin DE, 2016.