

Selected Press

SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH STRANGE MESSENGERS AT PERES PROJECTS

September 27 , 2018 | April Dell

Imagine the artist as a messenger. They transmit, decode, untangle and entangle the data feed of the everyday through familiar and unfamiliar means. 'Strange Messengers', the current group show at Peres Projects, presents the work of seven artists who in one way or another navigate the conditions of contemporary life. Ever-evolving political, social and environmental concerns spread anxiety, cynicism and fatigue. The messengers ask and give obscured answers to the question: how do we exist and take care of ourselves in this vulnerable and fraught terrain? The objects that fill the austere gallery space are their messages and these objects have absorbed the conditions of their creation, bear traces of their surroundings, and project our image back to us. They unveil, disguise, perform and survive...

Steffen Bunte's figurative sculptures reflect a different kind of self-image, digitised, seamless yet not uncomplicated. His are composite figures that merge the human experience of a digital world with the technology that drives it. Bunte's recurrent use of automotive parts and industrial materials appears here in *Heute (seated)* with neatly upholstered surfaces in faux leather and bright untarnished aluminum. The mannequin seated upon this industrial bed-like platform looks out from behind a warped PET mask and wears customised athletic workwear. "CLEAR WATERS" is printed on the shirt like a brand or company logo, the environmental message of which is in almost satirical contradiction to the industrial production the work embodies. A few personal and organic items adorning the sculptural figures, as well as the disturbingly expressive forms of the masks, maintain a human presence in Bunte's works and resist a neatly represented and unemotional view of the digital future.



Group show: 'Strange Messengers,' Peres Projects, Berlin, 2018 // Photo by Matthias Kolb, Courtesy of Peres Projects



Steffen Bunte: 'Heute (seated),' 2018, Sculpture, 166x202x101 cm // Photo by Matthias Kolb, Courtesy of Peres Projects

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