



GEERTEN VERHEUS

*1965

In his collages, sculptures and installations Verheus employs characteristics of inversion, as a functional or aesthetically appealing device. His work often visualizes the transformation of one state of matter into another, showing the evolution of materials in almost exaggerated, but always original and striking, ways. Verheus uses everyday objects or familiar shapes in his practice, allowing the viewer to straddle the fence between the everyday and the extraordinary.

The materiality of his subject plays a central role in Verheus' investigations. Working often with synthetics and plastics, he probes the limits of these materials, exploring in which arrangements they appear supple or brittle and how they react when stacked, slotted or hung. In certain works, a material may seemingly be left to its own devices. For instance, in *Upside Out Inside Down* (2009), black rubber is hung over a styrofoam board, bending according to its physical properties and evoking a string of art historical references while doing so. The evocative use of rubber in Verheus' work points to a strong sexual subtext, demonstrated not only through the materials used, but also in the forms and object relationships within the sculptures. Thus, behind the familiar associations of abstract shape and material dwells an essential humanity, an indication of social and emotional structures, onto the trails of which Verheus guides us. Frequently the gravity of what we expect to find hidden in the work is resolved lightheartedly, revealing a wholly different, more playful, dimension.

*Geerten Verheus (*1965) lives and works in Berlin. His work has been shown in group and solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, London, Amsterdam, and Berlin among others. In 2010, he developed the exhibition „Loyal Jelly“ for the Schinkel Pavillon Berlin.*