



MICHAEL DREYER

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Michael Dreyer's interests and artistic practice are widely varied, encompassing work as a visual artist, author, musician, graphic artist, designer, director and project-initiator. He is interested in commonly held assumptions about the vocation of the artist, his way of life, and specific romanticized locales such as the studio. The engagement with such assumptions is a recurring theme in Dreyer's work, being ironically questioned and investigated time and time again. A frequent frame of reference in Dreyer's work is the notion of theatre. Questioning forms of participation and constructions of the public in the art world, he engages concepts such as Jerzy Grotowski's "poor theatre" with pop-cultural references and different forms of display in order to formulate a theory of "poor audience". While these constellations invoke ideas around participation, mediation and emancipation of the audience, they also open open a realm of possibility for the emergence of emancipated spectators, reclaiming post-participatory idiosyncrasy.

A theatrical investigation of the relationship between audience and performer was also the theme of Dreyer's 2011 solo exhibition at Aanant & Zoo. *Triple Negation, Double Props I, We now interrupt for a commercial* saw the curator, who had initially placed the artist in the gallery, in turn depicted by the artist and thus located within the exhibition themselves. In an ironic comment on conventions of expressing mutual respect, the curator had thus become a "guest" in Dreyer's artistic plan. Like this staged relationship, many aspects of this exhibition may be understood as a complex interplay between the freely circulated principles of production, reproduction, repetition and imitation, as well as the regulations and economic realities framing a gallery exhibition.

Michael Dreyer lives and works in Stuttgart. He teaches at the MERZ-Akademie and is founder and Director General of the W.O. Scheibemuseum, located in his own backyard. Dreyer has exhibited in various German and European cities and institutions, among them the Grazer Kunstverein, the Heidelberger Kunstverein, Hermes & der Pfau, Stuttgart, Arco Madrid, Bethanien, Berlin, and NGBK, Berlin.