

Follow

Thomas Lüer at Sudhaus/Galerie Peripherie

28 January to 13 March 2022

Galerie Peripherie
Sudhaus Tübingen
Hechinger Street 203
accessible daily 5–8 p.m.

Follow is the title of Thomas Lüer's installation, offering a direct invitation to visitors. Those who comply with the request find themselves in the outdoor space in front of the windows of the Galerie Peripherie. From here, one can look in to the exhibition space, where four windsocks, each 2.5 meters in length, are arranged around a column. In the large gallery space, the objects are able to extend to their full dimensions. They react with movement to the winds of an impossible storm: From all four compass points, a synchronized gale appears, whose winds seem to each blow differently. What results is a sublime dance streaming towards the north, east, south, and west. The windsocks respond independently to currents of air that appear to originate from an invisible point defined by Lüer. Out in the natural world, it is the sun that gives rise to winds and storms. In *Follow*, the eyes move towards a column which serves as the center of this world, like a beacon or signal in the midst of the installation. The movements of the air are based on algorithms programmed by the artist, which, via a random number generator, lend the four headwinds their vivid naturalness. In the rise and fall of the inflating tubes, each of whose color segments indicates a change in the wind's strength, one perceives the unpredictable rhythms of force contained in them. Chance, accident: nature fluttering its wings. Here, the obverse of tangible substance is portrayed, a something whose characteristics do not necessarily have to be the ones they happen to be. The human-programmed algorithm of chance is closer to nature than man. Lüer's staging of unpredictability eludes us. Situated outside of the artwork's space, viewers hear nothing, feel nothing. They remain excluded from the sensual experience of this spectacle occurring in the gallery space. In this way, the title's invitation to "follow" has ultimately turned out to be a kind of rejection. This distancing, a denial, not only spatial but sensual as well, of intimate access, turns an experience of *Follow* into a lesson on the capacity for comprehension purely by one's own eyes.