

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OPENING OF

# Philipp Schwalb De.mSeignaAuzGangunendLichT

SATURDAY, 28TH JANUARY 2017, FROM 6PM TO 8PM

EXHIBITION: JANUARY 29 TO MARCH 26, 2017

KMD — KUNSTHALLE MARCEL DUCHAMP | THE FORESTAY MUSEUM OF ART

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Philipp Schwalb  
"Ätha3"  
2017

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The enigmatically titled exhibition *De.mSeignaAuzGangunendLichT* is the last of a total of six exhibitions that for Philipp Schwalb together form an integral whole. The exhibition was conceived specially for the KMD.

Shown on the lower level of the KMD is a work that sums up his artistic activity of the last six years. It is a site-specific drawing, distributed over the entire wall surfaces of the room and visualizing—with philosophical perspicacity and verve—a possible trisection of figures within the image. This drawing marks the conclusion of a correlated body of works—like the completion of a first book.

At the same time, on the lower level of the KMD, Schwalb shows a painting on canvas that has been cut out and laid on the floor. It is the beginning of a new episode. A new book has been started. As this painting represents a beginning, it is still in its experimental state and serves Schwalb as a means of exploring the psychedelic effect of red and blue. He has found that blue creates a suction effect, pulling us into the painting, while red does the exact opposite, pushing us out of the painting. These two opposite poles generate a push-pull dynamic of such tension that one cannot but ask oneself whether and to what extent materializing processes can actually be generated within a painting or whether matter may (merely) be suggested or visualized symbolically. In the painting, this question takes the form of brown shadows or imprints of reality.

Philipp Schwalb always works with figure and color in a way that may be seen as not just space and time specific but also societally specific. It is in this sense that he seeks to combine the two spheres/levels/floors of the KMD conceptually and to initiate their outer shell (the building that encloses them) as a light capsule—via a postage stamp that alludes to a different reality—in order, perhaps, to open a door for a further *story of a painting*.

Philipp Schwalb insists that he is not an artist but a medium. He also stresses the fact that his paintings are not media but rather generators or, as Marcel Duchamp once put it: *"To all appearances, the artist acts like a mediumistic being who, from the labyrinth beyond time and space, seeks his way out to a clearing."*

Philipp Schwalb was born in Filderstadt/Schönaich (Stuttgart) in 1984 and today lives in Paudex on Lake Geneva. Besides his solo exhibition *De.mSeignaAuzGangunendLichT* he is also currently exhibiting—under the title *De.mSeignaZ.U.WertSeign*—at the Kirchgasse Gallery in Steckborn. The four other solo exhibitions of this six-part cycle, which likewise took place in 2016, were: *De.mSeigna.T.Z.U.GangSeign*, Niklas Schechinger, Berlin; *De.mSeigna.T.O.No-getSeign*, harpune Farblag, Vienna; *De.mSeigna2,D(L)ichTSeign*, Maß-bro-duc-TiOn, Munich; and *De.mSeigna1GangunendLichT*, BunTO-Maison, Geneva. He recently exhibited at the Christine Mayer Gallery in Munich together with André Butzer.