

## Artist Statement

Sebastian Utzni (b. 1981) is a German conceptual artist based in Zurich and Lucerne, Switzerland. The materials with which he works are varied and are chosen to serve best the delivery of each project.

His working technique is that of a flâneur, relying on happenstance to throw up new subjects of research and directions of thought. This is a time-based, peripatetic process of collection and absorption. An idea may ripen over many years before it comes into fruition and takes material form. Utzni is interested in the quotidian simultaneity of academic, cultural, economic, historic, political, scientific and societal contexts, filtering and undertaking a detailed analysis of often-ambivalent cultural symbols. In this process he physically tests materials, juxtaposing and making visible connections and existing structures that may have gone unnoticed. This leads to unexpected, often contradictory combinations of materials and subjects placed within a contemporary context.

The viewer plays an important part in Utzni's work. Not only is he interested in testing the viewers' reaction, but the viewer is needed to activate the work and complete it. His work may thus be described as "counter-monuments". After the viewer has internalised the concept of the work it may well disappear or dissolve and continue to be active in the viewer's mind.

Sebastian Utzni holds a diploma in Visual Arts from the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), 2008 and currently teaches as the Head of BA Fine Arts at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences.

Recent solo and two person exhibitions include *Glauben*, Sebastian Utzni and Gianin Conrad, Lokal 14, Zurich, CH (2018); *The Martyrdom Cycle*, Palais de Beaux Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, BE (2018); *Platform Art Fair*, with Dienstgebäude Zürich, Athens, GR (2018); *Sebastian Utzni & Vittorio Santoro*, with Counter Space Zurich, NADA New York, New York, US (2018); *LITTLE BOY*, o.T. Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Luzern, CH (2017); *Up in the Sky*, Herrmann Germann Contemporary, Zürich, CH (2017); *M-Maybe*, Counter Space, Zürich, CH (2017); *Up in the Sky*, Art Rotterdam NL, New Art Section, with Herrmann Germann Contemporary, Rotterdam, NL (2017); *Memoria*, Kunsthaus Grenchen, Grenchen, CH (2015)...