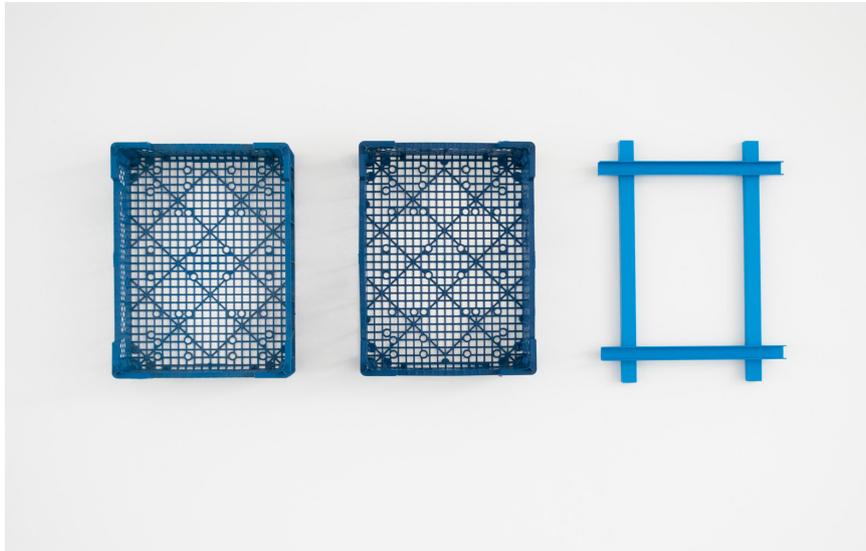


## Florian Slotawa

APRIL 9 – MAY 28 / 2016



Florian Slotawa, VW LD3X (Trend Blue), 2016, Autolack auf Metall, Kunststoffkörbe, 43,8 x 126 x 13 cm, © VG Bild-Kunst, 2016 Courtesy of the artist and von Bartha

In his second exhibition at von Bartha, the conceptual artist Florian Slotawa presents a selection of new works in which he pairs objects painted in car paint lacquers with readymade objects in matching or complementary colours.

Slotawa has recently become preoccupied with found colour, in particular those he observes on cars on the streets of Berlin. Rather than attempting to recreate a shade he dedicates himself to finding the specific colour by noting the car type, taking pictures and if possible researching the vintage of the car. He then has the exact colour mixed by an expert car varnisher which he paints onto aluminium panels and found objects, which come together as sculpture and wall works. Exhibiting two objects side by side, in the same or corresponding tone, the strength of the colour creates a synergy between the components and lends the finished piece a painterly quality.

The accompanying readymade objects which Slotawa pairs the painted panels with are also found by chance. For example in one work, *Volkswagen C6T (Jadegrün met.)* (2015) the colour of a plastic pair of safety goggles in Slotawa's studio happened to be a close match to the jade green the artist selected from a Volkswagen C6T parked outside.

The new works in the von Bartha exhibition are a continuation of Slotawa's fascination with found objects and the shift in their meanings when the objects are placed in different contexts such as moving them from an everyday environment into a gallery space. Through this shift from the private to the public sphere, he explores how the process of displacement not only repurposes items, but alters the perception of the space in which they are displayed.

Slotawa has been using his own possessions as the basis of his work for most of his career. In his early years he worked almost exclusively with his personal belongings. The artist's furniture, car, fridge and clothes have all appeared in his works. In 2002, this practice was temporarily abandoned when Slotawa – in a performative act – sold all of his belongings to a German

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collector. The works in this exhibition demonstrate his ongoing interest in assembly, which has been evident throughout his career with the de-construction and re-modelling of his possessions.

## About Florian Slotawa

Florian Slotawa (b.1972, Rosenheim, Germany) is a conceptual artist living and working in Berlin. He has used the readymade throughout his career as an artist, first using his personal possessions, moving them from the domestic to the gallery setting and later using found objects.

Recent exhibitions include *OPEN HOUSE - a group show on hospitality*, Kunstverein Braunschweig (2015); *Transient Material*, Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin (2015); *Werkbetrachtung: Weiße Räume verlassen*, Kunstverein Gera (2015); *SPOT ON*, Hamburger Kunsthalle (2014) and *Room Service*, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (2014). Major exhibitions include *Everyday Life*, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (2014); *P.S.1*, MoMA, New York (2009); *One After the Other*, Arthouse, Austin (2007) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale in 2006 with the installation *Ersatzturm*.

## About von Bartha

Representing over twenty artists, von Bartha is a contemporary gallery with locations in Basel and S-chanf active in both the primary and secondary markets.

Co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha, the gallery initially gained recognition for showing historically significant groups such as the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invención and Arte Madí, the ZERO group and the Hungarian Avant-Garde. They also worked with significant contemporary artists of their own era such as Olle Baertling and Aurelie Nemours. The gallery built on its foundations to establish a contemporary programme now directed by the second generation of the family, Stefan von Bartha. Today it maintains a focus on Concrete Art, Op Art, Kinetic Art, Activist Art, Installation Art and Light Art.

The gallery represents an international roster of artists that includes Christian Andersson, Andrew Bick, Terry Haggerty, John Wood and Paul Harrison, Imi Knoebel, Sarah Oppenheimer, Florian Slotawa, Bob and Roberta Smith and Bernar Venet as well as important Swiss artists such as Daniel Robert Hunziker, Karim Noureldin, Boris Rebetez and Beat Zoderer. Von Bartha continues to represent European modern artists such as Olle Baertling, Camille Graeser, Gerhard von Graevenitz and Bernhard Luginbühl.

Von Bartha's location in Basel is a 850m<sup>2</sup> converted garage which has been used to great effect to present large-scale installations by gallery artists. The gallery has a second space located in S-chanf in the Engadin Alps used for special exhibitions and projects. By commissioning and exhibiting ambitious new works, the gallery nurtures successive generations of artists, while supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists.

Von Bartha publishes art books, exhibition catalogues and its own newspaper featuring commissioned essays and interviews.

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## Exhibition Facts

**Title:** Florian Slotawa

**Address:** von Bartha, Kannenfeldplatz 6, 4056, Basel, Switzerland

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**Telephone:** +41 61 322 10 00

**Website:** [www.vonbartha.com](http://www.vonbartha.com)

**Dates:** April 9 – May 28 2016

**Preview:** April 8 2016, 6-8pm

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 2 – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 4pm, or by appointment

**Admission:** Free

**Twitter:** @vonbartha

**Facebook:** galleryvonbartha

**Instagram:** vonbartha