



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

LANDESMUSEUM FÜR MODERNE
KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR
STIFTUNG ÖFFENTLICHEN RECHTS

ALTE JAKOBSTRASSE 124-128
10969 BERLIN
POSTFACH 610355 – 10926 BERLIN

FON +49 (0) 30 –789 02–600
FAX +49 (0) 30 –789 02–700
BG@BERLINISCHEGALERIE.DE

PRESS RELEASE

Ulrike Andres
Head of
Marketing & Communications
Fon +49 (0)30 789 02 – 829
andres@berlinischegalerie.de

Contact:

Fiona Finke
Marketing & Communications
Fon +49 (0)30 789 02 – 833
finke@berlinischegalerie.de

Berlin, 18 February 2014

The Berlinische Galerie shows Markus Draper: Works from the Berlinische Galerie's collection

Exhibition dates: 20.02.–23.06.2014



Markus Draper: Windsor Tower, 2007, installation shot,
© Markus Draper, Photo: Jens Ziehe

Markus Draper: Peeling, 2004
© Markus Draper, Reproduction: Kai-Annett Becker

Since 20 February 2014 Berlinische Galerie shows works by the artist Markus Draper (b.1969 in Görlitz) in a series of presentations from the museum collection. The atmospherically charged works offer an artistic take on urban structures and the radical changes they undergo. Many of the buildings in his collages, paintings, sculptures and videos are recognizable, and some even relate to specific events. Above all, however, they are proxies: these works are psychological landscapes. Ultimately this symbolization of failed endeavour can apply to very different levels of human existence.

Draper's *Windsor Tower* (2007) looms like a dark giant over the exhibition space. A black colossus more than five metres tall that seems to plunge when we draw closer – as a shift in the central axis causes a flurry of unconscious bewilderment. The idea for the sculpture came from the office block Torre Windsor (built 1973-79) in Madrid, which was ravaged by flames in 2005. As the fire raged, parts of the outer skeleton imploded, leaving only the inner core of the structure intact. The tower was pulled down. Two years later, the artist decided to transform the dramatic image of the ruins into a monumental sculpture. It becomes a symbolic form, implicitly absorbing motifs from our collective consciousness, from the Tower of Babel to the twin towers of the World Trade Center.



Collage is a point of departure for many of Draper's works. Here he layers and counterposes ruins of empty concrete housing blocks, industrial ruins and failed investments. He combines these with sublime mountain panoramas, flashes of lightning and scenes of rubble, sometimes reminiscent of themes from 19th-century Romantic painting. It is not always clear whether the structures we see in the composition are simply lightning or else cracks exposing lower layers. Draper is an archaeologist of the post-war Modern era with its visionary buildings, once conceived for a better life but now themselves obsolete. All that remains are fragments and rubble, from which newer – often fragile and absurd – worlds emerge.

Field Research #2 could be a postmodern interpretation of Caspar David Friedrich's *Sea of Ice* (1823-1824). Rather than natural elements in Romantic vein, however, we see mundane bits of cardboard left over from the model for Windsor Tower. Draper had originally used them for his 3-channel video installation *Portrait as a Building* (2009), which the artist has gifted to the Berlinische Galerie to mark this exhibition. Three screens display the sea of prepared shavings from different angles. A barely perceptible movement is created by a device consisting of a plastic bag and an air pump, and this is played back in slow motion: a lethal struggle or the resurrection of a toppled tower? A fog machine generates a cinematic atmosphere, and the slow-motion sound likewise provides a dramatic backdrop. The video loops vary in length, resulting in constantly varying constellations; the genie in the machine (or building) takes control of the installation, creating a pseudo-Dadaist *Ballet Mécanique* in the spirit of Léger.

Markus Draper studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden from 1991 to 1996. From 1998 to 2000 he attended Professor Ralf Kerbach's master class. He lives and works in Berlin.

24.03., 28.04., 16.06.2014, 2pm

Guides Tours by the Curator

Included in the entrance fee

20.03.2014, 6pm

Artist Talk

Free admission