

JENNY'S

Tobias Kaspar
November 16 – December 31, 2016

Jenny's is pleased to present a suite of new works by Tobias Kaspar, produced with a Swiss textile manufacturer known for supplying fabric to haute couture brands. The material surface of the works has a melted glass coating, similar to the shimmering reflective surfaces of hi-tech athletic wear. Depending on the viewpoint of the visitor, the intensity of ambient light, as well as the use of a camera flash, these light-sensitive surfaces simultaneously conceal and reveal the presence of laser engraved patterns and text.

The abstract patterns visible on the surfaces are taken from an earlier series of Kaspar's work, "The Gentlewoman/Stripped Bare," first shown at Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis in 2013. Their geometric shapes reference the layout of the eponymous women-focused lifestyle magazine, *The Gentlewoman*. Emptied of their pictorial content, these forms become structures that serve to choreograph the reader's attention. Two of the larger works depict text which reads 'Almond / Red' and 'Birch / Lights' - words that could easily appear on the accompanying exhibition text card that describes a character struggling to reconcile his place between different worlds. The seemingly random pairings function as connotations for lifestyle branding and products, i.e. Almond Milk, Red Pomegranate, Birch Water, Marlboro Lights. Kaspar's interest in the mechanisms of trendsetting lies not so much in the omnipresent 'image,' but rather in appropriating and questioning the underlying strategies of seduction.

Tobias Kaspar (1984) was born in Basel, Switzerland, and currently lives in Riga, Latvia. In 2012 he founded his eponymous jeans line, TK Jeans. Kaspar is co-founder of *PROVENCE*, an eight-issue magazine. In 2015, he opened Toby's Tristram Shandy Shop at Udolpho, Berlin. Kaspar's artworks are often conceived as larger bodies of works and bare titles such as Lumpy Blue Sweater (2010), Bodies in the Backdrop (2012), The Bling Ring (2013), Friends, Lovers & Financiers (2014), Two Cities - Two Lives (2015) and The Street (2016).

His work has been widely shown in institutions and museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (2016), Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco (2015), Solo Shows, São Paulo (2015), CAFAM Biennale, Beijing (2014), Kunsthalle Wien (2014), Kunsthalle St. Gallen (2014), Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2013), Artists Space, New York (2013), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012), Kunsthalle Zürich (2011), Kunsthalle Basel (2011), Museum Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2011), Kunsthaus Bregenz (2011), and Künstlerhaus Stuttgart (2010). This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles.