

NATALIA HUG

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Mark Soo

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Natalia Hug is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Berlin-based Canadian artist Mark Soo.

On display are two new distinct but related projects. Exploring the phenomena of refraction, the video *Koons On Ice* takes as its central motif a transparent glass sculpture produced by American artist Jeff Koons in the early 1990s. This explicit sculpture depicts Koons in the midst of sex with his ex-wife, Cicciolina. For this project, Soo uses the glass properties of the sculpture as a lens device to film through, inflecting the resulting image with traces of Koon's presence and aura, and his production of fantasy.

Instead of using Koon's physical sculpture however, Soo has recreated it as a realistic, digitally-rendered glass model -- itself an emblem of technological fantasy. Using the computer, Soo has combined the virtual sculpture with vignettes of daily scenes filmed on the streets around the artists studio. In optics, refraction is a natural phenomena that occurs when light waves bend as they travel from one medium through another. Refraction alters the relation between the seen and the perceived, producing situations where object and image, representation and reality, find divergent ways of correlation. In the video, the familiar alternates with the chimeric. Everyday scenes are distorted in hallucinatory yet scientifically accurate waves of movement, filtered through both the sex scene and the simulated glass.

Soo also presents a series of works entitled *You can see the weakness of a man right through his iris*. Recalling moments in the history of early photography, these works feature photograms of condoms mounted upon the grid pattern of standard cutting matts. The series is focused around the technique of the photogram, a lens-less format of photography. Handprinted in an analogue darkroom, the constellation of elements in this work brings to mind a relationship that emerges with the connection between the eye to the hand, and the phallus to the ego.

Soo (b. 1977, Singapore) completed his studies at Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada. He has presented in numerous venues including the Boston Institute for Contemporary Art, CCA Wattis, San Francisco, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen offsite in Mechelen, Detroit Institute for Contemporary Art, Vancouver Art Gallery, and National Gallery of Canada. Soo lives and works in Berlin.