

Wilde

PRESS RELEASE

Joachim Perez

I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER WITH A SIMPLE YES

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WILDE | GENÈVE

« *Something like a stain in a garment that will not come out no matter how often one tries to wash it...* »

Yukio Mishima, Forbidden Colors (禁色), 1951

Joachim Perez's work is always about the body, whether through his performances, installations or embroidery. The exhibition *I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER WITH A SIMPLE YES* explores the vast territories of desire through the prism of his own experience and the literary echoes that have shaped his artistic expression. Using antique textiles sourced from flea markets around the Tokyo, Kyoto and Chiba prefectures, the Franco-Swiss artist weaves a visual narrative in which every stitch and fold is charged with multiple and complex meanings.

Perez skillfully integrates the use of clothing patterns into his works, transforming these sewing guides into complex canvases that reveal human interaction, the marks of time, and the wear and tear of materials. These patterns, often seen as mere tools in the making of clothes, are here reimagined as vectors of desire and memory, revealing how every trace on the fabric can become an unexpected visual narrative. This transformation is paralleled with his prints, where black ink applied on the backs of cut linoleum pieces embodies a new visual language.

In this way, the elements do not simply coexist, but intermingle to form a poetics of relationship. This interweaving, far from simple juxtaposition, engages in a dialogue in which each texture and motif permeates the other, like Deleuze and Guattari's 'rhizome.' In their philosophy, they conceptualize the rhizome as a non-hierarchical, non-linear model of thought, where connections and heterogeneities meet and reinforce each other, allowing the creation of new ideas and forms without a predefined center or point of origin. Contrary to what a superficial glance might perceive, what strikes you when you look closely at Joachim Perez's works is that the textile is not a simple support; it becomes the actor of encounters. The fabric meets the body in an interaction that evokes a desire that is never fully satisfied, giving way to a never-ending quest and exploration.

The title of the exhibition, *I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER WITH A SIMPLE YES*, suggests an intrinsic complexity in responding to an unspoken question, reflecting the multiple dimensions and interweaving of the works. This choice of title evokes the often elusive and enigmatic nature of desire, a central theme in Joachim Perez's works inspired by the writings of Jean Genet, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and Walt Whitman, where desire is rarely simple and unidirectional but rather a complex weaving of emotions, identities, and relationships.

– Chiara Caterina Ortelli

Genève

Blvd Georges Favon, 19
CH – 1204 Genève
+ 41 22 310 00 13
geneve@wildegallery.ch

Basel

Angensteinerstr. 37
CH – 4052 Basel
+ 41 61 311 70 51
basel@wildegallery.ch

Zurich

Wilde Private
Waldmannstr. 6
CH – 8001 Zurich
zurich@wildegallery.ch

www.wildegallery.ch