

MARVIN GARDENS

1532 DECATUR STREET, RIDGEWOOD, NY 11385

Nickolaus Typaldos - *PARTITION* | April 7 - May 14, 2017
Opens Friday - April 7th, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.



The reality I see is never 'whole' - not because a large part of it eludes me but because it contains a blind spot which indicates my inclusion within it.
- Slavoj Žižek

Partition, an exhibition of new work by Nickolaus Typaldos, centers on notions of confusion, obstruction and the ever-shifting relationship between power and position as they affect not only perception but also political agency.

At the heart of the show is a site-specific architectural intervention - the construction of a vinyl-covered wall that partially divides the gallery space. The geometric vinyl patterning, based on those found on the inside of security envelopes, is offset by a nearly identical vinyl pattern covering the back wall of the space. The interplay between these two optical planes is activated and altered by the relative position of the viewer as their bodies move through the space.

In this way, Typaldos might be said to draw on the idea of *parallax* to consider the manner in which sites of power and notions of truth are constituted and contested through the position of the viewer/agent and forces of security, territory, access and control.

In *The Parallax View*, philosopher Slavoj Žižek draws attention to this phenomenon for the manner in which it does not simply indicate the subjective nature of all experience, reality's dependence on a viewer but, more than that, the manner in which it implicates the subject in a wholly *material* world of objects resistant to our grasp.

Within the confines of the gallery, in the alternating clash and coherence of these lines, such a material world oscillates between environment and spectacle, at once a reminder of the shifting frontiers around us and the disorientating power of politics and infotainment to ceaselessly interrupt lines of thought.

The ambiguous nature of this material world is further considered in a series of sculptural works that blur the lines between real and fake, authentic and inauthentic, material and artificial. Using a process called cold casting whereby metal powder - in this case aluminum - is mixed with resin and cast into a silicone mold, Typaldos has created a series of works cast from garbage and studio refuse.

At once plastic and metallic, the works resist stable identification. Everyday objects like coffee cups and banana skins take on the resonance of a *vanitas* still-life, yet all the while representative of a quite literal *refusal* of the status of crafted, materialized art object.

In *Partition* Typaldos moves fluidly between notions of real and unreal, truth and falsity, yet all the while drawing attention to the proximity and positions of the viewer within these systems of meaning and power.

-Aengus Woods

Nickolaus Typaldos is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in New York City. He has exhibited and performed internationally at venues including Shoot the Lobster, David Zwirner, Baxter St./CCNY, Regina Rex, and Andrew Edlin in New York, Praz-Delavallade in Paris and Melange in Cologne among others. He is a member of the artist-run gallery Essex Flowers. This is the first solo exhibition of his work in New York.