

PRESS RELEASE
BESPOKE
Sculpture by Sebastian Kuhn

**ANITA
BECKERS**
CONTEMPORARY ART
& PROJECTS



Vernissage:
Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 7
9 pm

Duration of exhibition:
July 13th August 26, 2017

Opening Speech:
Stefanie Patruno,
Curator Mathildenhöhe,
Darmstadt

*We are proud to present the first solo show of sculptor Sebastian Kuhn at the Galerie Anita Beckers. The exhibition's title, **Bespoke**, refers to Kuhn's practice of choosing and manipulating materials to specifically fit the form he has in mind. The fact that Kuhn has created new sculptures to reflect the gallery space is also mirrored in the title. Stefanie Patruno, deputy director of the Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, will give the opening speech on Wednesday, July 12, 2017.*

Through his artistic practice, Sebastian Kuhn searches for an expansion to the concept and understanding of contemporary sculpture. His works are created out of everyday items and materials. However, the resulting sculptures are anything but ordinary. The large-scale masses of steel, acrylic glass and plastic both estrange and enthrall the viewer. Kuhn refers repeatedly to the well-known and creates a narrow path between recognition and alienation. In his works, perception and the nature of materiality can take on very different forms. Hard, brittle materials are made to look flexible. Materiality, physicality, appearance and reality are thus called into question. Space and time, function and illusion are no longer fixed.

It is, however, false to just call Kuhn's sculptures beautiful and move on because it negates their explosive strength. At first glance, his works are discordant. They seem to be something destructive or menacing. Nevertheless, although his works appear to be questioning accepted laws, they are in themselves balanced. Each part has a counterpart, each surface a condition, each color a contrast. Kuhn creates harmony and dynamism while making the viewer re-think their idea of reality.

*In the article *Torques* (2015), Dr. Ulrike Lorenz writes: Sebastian Kuhn belongs to the young, international generation of sculptors who, beyond the post-modern Concept Art, go back to the old masters such as Eduardo Chillida, Anthony Caro and David Smith, without, however, ignoring the essential impulses of the anthropological permeation of sculpture in the sense of Joseph Beuys and Bruce Naumann. Through the selection of current materials or everyday objects and their combination into hybrid constellations, this tension field is unmistakably translated into the modern-day reality of life and thereby is charged with physical and poetic dynamism. In this way, Kuhn has cemented his place in the artistic canyon not by referencing the famous sculptors that came before him, but by creating his own plastic language through that very acknowledgement.*

*BIOGRAPHY: Sebastian Kuhn (*1977) lives and works in Nürnberg. He studied sculpture at AdBK Nürnberg with Prof. Tim Scott and Prof. Claus Bury. He graduated in 2006 and received his MA Fine Art in sculpture at the University of the Arts in London in 2007. Kuhn's work has been exhibited at institutions like the Museum Biedermann, Donaueschingen; Haus der Kunst, Munich; Kunstverein Ravensburg; Städtisches Museum Heilbronn and the Kunstverein Villa Wessel, Iserlohn (selection). His work is included in the following public collections: Collection of the Museum Biedermann, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Neues Museum Nuremberg, Collection Defet, Collection of the association of co-operatives Bayern e.V., Hiroshima City University and the Collection of the city of Zwickau.*