

# Temporary Gallery

HARD RETURN

Olivier Foulon

2 Dec 2017 – 4 Mar 2018

Opening: Fri 1 Dec, 7 pm

Press talk: Fri 1 Dec, 11 am



Olivier Foulon: *Untitled [Flowers]*, 2016/17

Press release

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# Temporary Gallery

## HARD RETURN

Olivier Foulon

Curated by Regina Barunke

Olivier Foulon (born 1976 in Brussels, lives in Berlin) occupies himself with the properties of photographic images. He mounts the prints of the images on cardboard, one next to the other. This leads to a series, formed not by personal selection but by the multitude of printouts of moments of an expression. He selects the motifs from the world around him: apples, shortly before eating, reproductions of “Gersaint’s Signboard” by the Rococo painter Antoine Watteau, or a bouquet of colourful flowers through which one catches a glimpse of the ceiling.

However, it is the moment that is of interest, not the motif. The flowers are not carriers of meaning but messengers of this moment. While some artists place importance on ambiguity or vagueness, explaining their work with the fact that art is elusive and indeterminate, this is not the case with Foulon. He shows things as they are; things that we see and know. But he does this with an immediacy that makes them appear uneasy and even uncanny. As if they were entities not wholly with themselves, us not wholly with ourselves, but rather at the crossroads between good and evil, day and night, top and bottom, figure and ground, picture and support etc. – in the sense of A. D. Coleman: “I found myself disturbed and left uneasy by encounters with certain photographs—not because they were unpleasant on a purely sensory level, but because between the style, technique, form, subject matter, content, cultural context, and the medium itself generated emotional and intellectual stress” (The Grottesque in Photography, 1977).

The title “Hard Return” selected by Foulon for his exhibition marks this break. It derives from the computer command designating a forced line break that even stays in place when one inserts and deletes text. A hard technical break dividing form and content making a return to the existing difficult. Foulon is not interested in this break as a caesura between the words of any text but precisely between the two words ‘hard’ and ‘return’ and their relation to his occupation with the pictorial object: “There is a tension for me in the term ‘hard return’, between its meaning for a native or non-native speaker. Between a change of an idea, a scene or a cut in the flow, and ‘hard’ as difficult and ‘return’ as in the line: the repressed always returns; ‘hard return’, in the sense that there is a difficult come-back” (Olivier Foulon, 2017).

### About Olivier Foulon

Olivier Foulon, born 1976 in Brussels and lives in Berlin, has studied at the ERG Ecole de Recherche Graphique, Brussels, and the Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht. Exhibitions (selected): 2017 *Von da an*, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach (co-curated together with Susanne Titz and Susanne Rennert); *Garçon*, Galerie Tang, Paris (with Alexander Lieck); *The Absent Museum*, WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels; 2016 *Vanité*, Kunstraum, London; *in kurzer Zeit*, Clages, Cologne; *Tokonoma*, Museum M Leuven & Ludlow 38, New York; 2015 *Bernd Lohaus Prize*, LLS387 Room for Contemporary Art, Antwerp; 2013 *petits et grands formats*, Galerie Nadja Vilenne, Liège; 2012 *Stehimbiss*, dépendance, Brussels; 2011 *Melanchotopia*, Witte de With, Rotterdam; 2010 *From Dusk Till Dawn*, If I Can’t Dance, I Don’t Want To Be Part of Your Revolution, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; 2008 *The Soliloquy of the Broom*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne

# Temporary Gallery

## Public programs

An programme of events is in preparation. The dates will be announced soon.

## Catalogue

An accompanying artist book will be published in close cooperation with Olivier Foulon. The release date will be announced soon.

## Funders, Supporters and Partners

Stiftung Kunstfonds  
Arts Flanders / Kunsten en Erfgoed  
Cultural Office of the City of Cologne  
Deltax Contemporary  
Hotel Chelsea Cologne

## About Temporary Gallery

The Temporary Gallery was founded in 2008 as a non-profit art institution. Five years later it was recognized by the city of Cologne as a Centre for contemporary art. Its program includes individual and group exhibitions of contemporary artists and thematic fields, which have an extraordinary high artistic-historical and social relevance. In addition to regular cooperation with international guest curators and local and regional universities, the Temporary Gallery focuses on discourse-oriented and practical issues in the fields of the current arts.

## Information

Temporary Gallery  
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## Opening times

Thu & Fri 11 am-6 pm, Sat & Sun 1-5 pm  
Admission free, Events: 2,50 Euro / members free

# Temporary Gallery

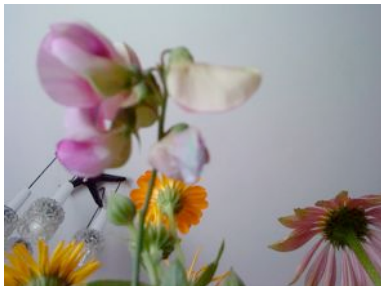
## Press images

For receiving high-resolution press images, please contact:  
Baptist Ohrtmann, [bo@temporarygallery.org](mailto:bo@temporarygallery.org)



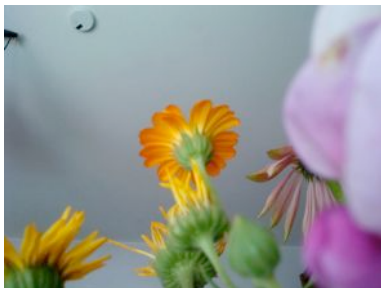
Foulon\_01.jpg (861 KB)

Olivier Foulon  
Untitled [Flowers], 2016/2017  
Digital print mounted on Bristol cardboard  
65x50 cm  
Courtesy: the artist



Foulon\_02.jpg (837 KB)

Olivier Foulon  
Untitled [Flowers], 2016/2017  
Digital print mounted on Bristol cardboard  
65x50 cm  
Courtesy: the artist



Foulon\_03.jpg (812 KB)

Olivier Foulon  
Untitled [Flowers], 2016/2017  
Digital print mounted on Bristol cardboard  
65x50 cm  
Courtesy: the artist