

*Yves Scherer*

The work of Yves Scherer confronts the integrity of existence, in a manner that originates in antiquity and continues into the now. In both sculptural form and his lenticular works, different realities are blurred to be presented as one. Complexity orbits simplicity, encapsulated by avid desire. Perception, both biological and cultural, is questioned and dismantled as viewers reevaluate notions of depiction itself. The work is grand in both scale and means, but intimate and almost whimsical when it comes to the feeling it evokes. Polychrome aluminum, 3D- lenticulars, stainless steel, and digital printing coexist as hosts to a gamut of subjects. They touch upon love and the spiritual, from sex to fantasy and from personal history to celebrity. The big themes are grounded and made more human, while those considered trivial reach towards the eternal.

The representation of human form—in image and space—has been an ongoing quest of artists since the beginning. Scherer absorbs these traveled roads from tribal iconography to Meissen porcelain and Western contemporary art to create sculptures that are uncanny and transformative. Our ability to connect the popular and the art historical is elevated and energized: the Ancient Greek meets late 20th-century Finish Fetish, Charles Ray mates with vernacular art and emojis, the digital produced with Rodin's modernism. What keeps the work current within the tried tradition of figurative sculpture is this ease of mixing tropes and styles. Scherer combines simple gestures with labored and highly detailed models that he creates using a variety of different tools. From the immediacy of basic iPhone drag and drop apps to state of the art computer software and manufacturing processes, his art is enabled by the technology of today, yet touches upon the universal. What's connecting the works presented here are the little love stories that each one tells. Realism is a means to an end and figures often exist outside their original scale or color. Nature is bent here to enable a wider range of emotion.

In Scherer's expansion of sculptural language, one is confronted with the merging of figure and fiction. Each work—rather than a character, an individual, or a type—constitutes a moment in a story, or a particular emotion frozen in space. The uncanniness of art that flirts with the real, brushing up against the warmth of a gentle gesture in absence. The cat is being pet, the boy gathers flowers for a loved one, and the large female

figure is ensconced by floating hearts. Scherer uses the physical world to create constellations of events and unknown stories in static wonder.

Even when the subjects are recognizable (Scherer's work has always had a deep interest in the horrors and humors of contemporary celebrity culture), society has already reduced them to stereotypes. A French model popular at the turn of the millennium may be any idealized form. Collective fantasies are used to tell personal stories. Each character in the sculptural composition that makes up the individual work, can serve both as the alter ego of the artist and as an empty role that the viewer may step inside freely.

In equal measure across media, the pieces presented here examine how we interact with each other and how we view ourselves within others. The basic blocks of naive figuration and private life stories compete against celebrity and the spectacle. There is an evolution and display of emotional life: the works may hold poignancy but, more so, moments of wonder, joy, and love. Scherer's reality is very much like our own, only skewed towards faithfulness as it warps, dreams, and engages.

Yves Scherer was born in 1987 in Solothurn, CH, and lives and works in New York, NY, US. He holds an MA in Sculpture from The Royal College of Art, London, UK, and has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Swiss Institute, New York, NY, US (2015); Kunstverein Wiesen, Wiesen, DE (2019); and, most recently, at Kunsthaus Grenchen, Grenchen, CH (2020). Other institutional presentations include the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK; Futura, Prague, CZ; Grand Palais, Paris, FR; Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH; and Basement Roma, Rome, IT. In 2015, Scherer was the recipient of a Swiss Art Award.