

# VANJA CONTEMPORARY

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ENGLISH VERSION

## Stefan Mildenberger: What If Your Smartphone Is On

**18 – 26 April 2014, tête, Berlin**

Opening night: 17 April, 19:00

Finissage: 26 April, 19:00



Vanja Contemporary (London, UK) is pleased to announce their first exhibition in Germany with a solo show by artist Stefan Mildenberger.

Mildenberger's work, which has been widely exhibited across Europe, reflects a media-critical approach and can often be seen as a comment on the ceaseless flow of data and images through mass media and the internet. Through appropriating and modifying visual data using tactics such as delays in capturing them, he seeks to explore the nature of these digitally constructed and transmitted images and reveals hidden levels of aesthetic qualities behind the images' glossy and transient surfaces.

*What if your smartphone is on* presents a new series of works building on his previous projects *What if the Television is on*, where he transformed moving images from analogue TV screens through an experimental scanning process into abstract digital photo prints. With a similar technique, Mildenberger now captures images from the screen of his smartphone. The visual sources from the smartphone screen are generated by a wide range of media channels and provide a random selection of visual data. The scanner itself is impartial about what it is scanning, whether it is a TV broadcast,



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a gaming app, YouTube, music videos, dating profiles or chat rooms. Solely the production of digital imagery is important, not the content itself. However, whilst in previous works he has only used public material available on TV, Mildenerger now uses personalised devices, entering the sphere of public/private imagery.

During the exhibition opening and finissage, Mildenerger will stage performances, which underscore the media-critical approach that is fundamental to his art practice. During a 30-minute session, he will be scanning random content from the screen of his mobile phone, which will be made visible for the audience through a live projection and instant printouts. During this process, Mildenerger will cite a wide range of text fragments of media theory, which question our relation to media today. The audience will be immersed with both a random selection of media-theoretical quotes, and a selection of random visual material, transformed and presented straight from the artist's smartphone.

The show will comprise of a display with high quality prints as well as a work-in-progress area, where Mildenerger will produce images on-site throughout the exhibition.

**Stefan Mildenerger** is based in Hamburg, where he studied at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg (HfBK). He has been exhibited widely in the UK, Switzerland and Germany, which included a major solo show at Kunstverein Jesteburg titled *Speeches You, Tube and I Know*.

**Vanja Contemporary** was founded in the UK in April 2013 as an online art gallery, representing emerging to mid-career artists from across Europe. This is the second in a series of pop-up exhibitions presenting new works of these artists in different European cities.

## What If Your Smartphone Is On

**18 – 26 April 2014**

**tête, Schönhauser Allee 161A, 10435 Berlin, Germany**

**Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 15:00 – 18:00**

Opening night: Thursday 17 April, 19:00

Finissage: Saturday 26 April, 19:00

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