

# REFLEKTOR M



## Oliver Laric, 'Year of the Dog' – Gallery Weekend

TANYA LEIGHTON (/ORT/TANYA-LEIGHTON-BERLIN)

### Opening

April 27 h 18:00 - 21:00

For Gallery Weekend 2018 Tanya Leighton will proudly host the European debut of Oliver Laric's latest video, which will be shown alongside of a new series of cast resin sculptures that depict a figure with the head of a dog and body of a human who protectively holds a smaller dog in his arms. Laric's work draws a line of inquiry into the replication and mutation of objects and ideas, as well as the unstable terms that define their meaning and interpretation. His ongoing research into hybridity, transmutation, and recurrence, have come to define his practice.

Seen as a continuation of his highly regarded video series *Versions* (2010 and 2012) and more recently *Untitled*, 2014-5, this latest video expands on themes and ideas they explored. Laric's research based practice – guided by a selective and distinctive appropriation of art history – collapses history, undermining conventionally held beliefs about authorship and authenticity. The video levels this far-reaching pool of source material through digital redrawing – Laric repurposes characters from anime, mushrooms growing in time-lapse, multiplying cells, people morphing into animals and more. The subjects of the video are all drawn with the same exacting, vectorized line, which moves continually between sequences, rather than being redrawn anew in each frame as in traditional animation. The resulting artwork is suggestive of instability and change, a liberating flexibility and the power in multiplicity.

The sculptures on view, all titled *Hundemensch*, are cast in striated layers of pigmented resin. Unlike many of Laric's recent sculptures that draw from specific art historical examples, the subject matter of these sculptures has been derived by a melding of sources, both prehistoric and contemporary. The artist scoured the long history of anthropomorphic sculpture, using these reference points to contribute his own addition to the canon. This 3D model was then used to cast the sculptures on view. The 'Hundemenschen' are beguiling figures, with an array of symbolism layered just below their polished surfaces – frogs, salamanders, crabs and human ears can be seen floating inside of them.

Oliver Laric has upcoming one-person exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum; S.M.A.K., Ghent; and Kunstverein Braunschweig. Past solo exhibitions include: Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin; Secession, Vienna; Austrian Cultural Forum, London; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; and the MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Fridericianum, Kassel; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Kunstverein München; and Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. He participated in the 2016 Liverpool Biennial, and his video *Untitled* (2014-15) was included in the 2015 New Museum Triennial. His work will be shown in the 2018 São Paulo Bienal.