

MATIJA ČOP - IN THE MEANTIME

The site-specific installation *In the Meantime* is created in the space between Matija's earlier works in the medium of soft sculpture and new exploration of steel frameworks, which are now oversized and merged with soft membranes in a radical gesture of synchronisation with the circular space of the Bačva Gallery.

At the core of Matija's approach is manual work, which implies respect for the given modular restrictions but, at the same time, freedom from predefined matrices in the very process of constructing living forms that now react to newly introduced metal compositions. Manual work also leads to slowing down and adapting to the fingers and hands that precisely intertwine each building element of these soft organisms.

The resulting surfaces are soft, supple and pliable, bending in all directions, allowing for stretching and wrinkling. In contact with steel, they trigger uncontrolled and unpredictable self-replication. Horizontal, vertical and diagonal breaks in the empty space rhythmise the possible multiple views of the exposed naked objects. The exaggeratedly smooth, shiny and somewhat menacing steel constructions reflect and absorb captured movements and glances.

The installation transforms the space of Bačva by introducing a central hanging object, a weightless blue vertical, which is placed in direct communication with the hybrid semicircular structure. The work appears to be in harmony with the space, but the introduction of steel forms creates restlessness and tension between the other works and the refined white circular space. The sharp polished tips penetrate through the soft blue membranes and hint at the further metamorphosis of the form.

Lea Vene