

# HAUS AM WALDSEE

PRESS RELEASE

## Tobias Rehberger Inspiration is a little town in China – in Paper

6 September to 17 November 2019

**Press conference:** Thursday, 5 September, 11 am

Tobias Rehberger is present and available for interviews after prior registration.

**In his first solo exhibition in an art institution in Berlin, Tobias Rehberger (\*1966) takes complete possession of Haus am Waldsee and changes it spectacularly. We continue the series of exhibitions with internationally renowned artists who live and work in Berlin or are closely associated with the city. Under the title „Inspiration is a little town in China - in Paper“, Rehberger's intensive preoccupation with the material paper will be presented for the first time ever in a separate exhibition in Germany. As usually, his work sets new standards for what art could be.**

Tobias Rehberger: „I always wanted to make an exhibition on paper. Works on paper are rarely seen nowadays. Anyways, mine are often out of the drawer, where they usually disappear after completion. I like that certain non-binding of the material. Not only is paper patient, but also generous. And it's not only on paper, but also in paper. In other words, in addition to classic paper works, drawings, watercolours, gouaches, silkscreen prints, etc., there is also a wide variety of paper objects; up to the use of cigarette paper. Thus not ‚works on paper‘, but ‚works in paper‘.“ (translated).

The exhibition focuses on Rehberger's broad artistic approach on his paper works. Starting with drawings and watercolours from the early 1990s, through diary-like collages to series of largeformatted computer prints, Haus am Waldsee will mainly present three-dimensional works and new installations.

Lavishly packaged gifts, hanging mask objects, and origami lamps will be on display. Additionally, a billboard will be installed in the outdoor space, which will thematise the mixing and levelling of visual information. Other works show, for example, naturalistic objects made of papier mâché, manic typewriter effusions, seemingly abstract sculptures from termite mounds, and some rooms are furnished with hand-painted wallpaper.

Paper production was born over 2000 years ago in China as a carrier of script and image. Termites, on the other hand, have been producing a kind of paper mass for over 200 million years by the process of digesting cellulose (wood, hemp and grasses), which they use as a material for their dwellings. These club-shaped, tower-shaped or lump-shaped termite mounds now appear in the exhibition as abstractions reminiscent of Western post-war modernism.



The artist, who has been teaching sculpture at the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Städelschule in Frankfurt as professor of sculpture since 2001, spans the arc globally and holistically both in terms of time and content. Thus he touches on existential questions not only of art production, but also of our understanding of the world today.

Rehberger's projects develop on the basis of broad philosophical questions. Conditions are not simply accepted, but continuously doubted, questioned and relativized. His handling of objects and situations are ignited by the basic feeling of uncertainty: „Uncertainty about what actually seems so clear and simple (...) It is about uncertainty in regard to what is called art.” (TR in an interview 2014, translated).

Curated by Katja Blomberg and Tobias Rehberger.

We thank the Collection Deutsche Bank for generous loans.

Catalogue in German and English with an article by Elisa Tamaschke, published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König.

**Events:**

22 September, artist dinner with Tobias Rehberger and artist talk with Kasper König. 6.30 pm. Only with registration. Admission 20 Euro including grill snack.

24 October, reading with David Wagner from his new book „Der vergessliche Riese“ (Rowohlt). 7.30 pm. Admission including exhibition 7/5 Euro.

November 1, reading with Harald Welzer from his book „Alles könnte anders sein“ (S. Fischer). 7.30 pm. Admission including exhibition 7/5 Euro.

High-Res images can be found in the press section on our homepage. In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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The exhibition is rendered possible through:



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Supported by the Bezirksamt Steglitz-Zehlendorf – Amt für Weiterbildung und Kultur, Fachbereich Kultur and the Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa.

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