

PRESS RELEASE, JANUARY 21, 2015

## **REVITAL COHEN & TUUR VAN BALEN: ASSEMBLE | STANDARD | MINIMAL**

**Press Preview and Artist Talk: Thursday, January 22, 2015, 5 p.m.**

Please register with Andrea Bölling, Public Relations | [boelling@scheringstiftung.de](mailto:boelling@scheringstiftung.de)

**Exhibition Opening: January 22, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Duration: January 23 – May 3, 2015

Ernst Schering Foundation | Unter den Linden 32–34 | 10117 Berlin | Germany

Opening Hours: Daily (except Tuesdays and Sundays), 12 noon – 7 p.m. Free admission.

Open on Sunday, May 3, 2015, 12 noon – 7 p.m.



***assemble | standard | minimal*** is the first solo show of the London-based artists **Revital Cohen & Tuur Van Balen** in Germany, presented by Schering Stiftung and The Arts Catalyst, and curated by Jens Hauser. The exhibition will show five main works by the artists including two new productions: For ***Sterile***, albino goldfish are engineered to hatch without reproductive organs, they are not conceived as animals but made as objects. An edition of 45 goldfish was produced for the artists by Professor Etsuro Yamaha in his laboratory in Hokkaido, Japan. ***Sensei Ichi-gō*** is a machine capable of producing sterile goldfish in an automated reenactment of Yamaha's movements and actions.

The exhibition reflects on our times of industrial processes and highly standardized technologies. Revital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen translate the automated production and trade – of living beings as well as of commercial products – into performative installations, provocative objects, and subtly aestheticized documentary films.

The film **Kingyo Kingdom** follows the stages through which Japanese goldfish function as objects. An amateur breeder walks through the house he designed and built for goldfish breeding. At a wholesale goldfish market, traders sort and pack the orders of the day, processing boxes of goldfish for shipping. In the annual national goldfish competition, professional breeders and judges discuss the design criteria of a winner fish, the ideal features and the core guidelines: a physique far removed from that of its carp ancestors.

In **75 Watt** Revital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen designed a product to be made in China. The object's only function is to choreograph a dance performed by the labourers manufacturing it. The title refers to a handbook for mechanical engineers claiming that "A labourer over the course of an 8-hour day can sustain an average output of about 75 watts."

**Pigeon d'Or** consists of a series of interventions that bring together synthetic biologists and pigeon fanciers in pursuit of making pigeons defecate soap. Bacteria that can modify the metabolism of pigeons have been developed with the help of biochemist James Chappell. The BioBrick, the DNA code required for creating these bacteria, is freely accessible from the Registry of Standard Biological Parts. The visitor is invited to take away a print of this BioBrick in the exhibition.

At the **press preview**, the artists will give a personal tour of the exhibition followed by a talk with the exhibition's curator **Jens Hauser** (*in English*). The opening includes a welcome by **Stefan H. E. Kaufmann**, chairman of the Schering Stiftung and managing director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, and an introduction by **Jens Hauser** from the University of Copenhagen (*both in German*).

*Sterile, Sensei Ichi-gō, and Kingyo Kingdom were commissioned by The Arts Catalyst, Sterile and Sensei Ichi-gō in cooperation with Schering Stiftung. The Arts Catalyst is a UK-based arts commissioning agency, specialising in the intersections between art, science and technology.*

#### **Related Events:**

##### **Panel: *Made to Measure* (in English)**

With: Revital Cohen & Tuur Van Balen, Tobias Cheung, Paul Feigefeld and Jens Hauser  
January 29, 2015, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Haus der Kulturen der Welt  
transmediale/festival

##### **Symposium: *Evolution aus Menschenhand* (in German)**

In cooperation with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities  
With: Jens Hauser, Hans-Christian von Herrmann, Ingeborg Reichle, Petra Schwillie, Tade M. Spranger, Rüdiger Trojok, Marcel Weber, et al.  
March 13, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Leibnizsaal, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

**The artists are available for interviews.**

**For interview requests or further information, please contact:**

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