

CRYSTALLINE VITRINE

Richard Müller | Curated by
Kirsty White

Opening Thursday 3 March 6.30pm - 10pm

Crystalline Vitrine is a new video and sculptural installation that derives its inspiration from the objects and community of the Swiss Church in London. It makes reference to the transformative effects of digital technologies; which through their simulation of real life can lead to both distance and intimacy, spectatorship and participation.

Primarily the installation draws a comparison between the superficiality of human perception and 3D scanning technologies. While visual perception is seemingly all encompassing, it still only has the capacity to sense and process the shapes and surfaces of things. In a similar way, 3D scanners blindly capture the outer layer of the world, without understanding what it is they record. The installation imagines this layer to be meshed - a conjoined outer peel of perceived meanings and beliefs that wraps all animate and inanimate forms.

Through animations and 3D printed sculptures, *Crystalline Vitrine* investigates whether the creation of digital reproductions can rupture this peel of perception. By 3D scanning a range of items from the Swiss Church it creates a shadow world of replicas, which are similar to, but distinct from their source objects. The scans are dumb simulacrum, with no meaning or content attached to them, inert objects rather than active 'things'.

The emphasis on surface is compounded by the process of 3D scanning, which overlays physical forms with a digital polygon mesh. These digital 'skins', as they are referred to in computer modelling software, are hollow copies of their source object. They are often snagged by holes and imperfections - information that was not picked up by the scanner.

Crystalline refers both to digital and analogue methods of display; the Crystal Palace and LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) screens simultaneously. Both examples, the screen and the vitrine, are intimate and distancing. They are contained spaces manifested for viewing, but are surrounded by shiny facades. One is provided seemingly unlimited access, but at the same time held afar.

Richard Müller is a Canadian artist currently living and working in London. Müller received his MFA in Fine Art Media from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2015, and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University in Montreal. Müller was recently awarded the 2014/15 Julian Sullivan Award. Previously, Müller was awarded a commission at the Museum of London. The resulting exhibition, *Twenty Bridges*, featured 3D models of the museum's collection and was displayed in the museum's Sackler Hall during Spring 2015. Müller has shown throughout Europe, the UK and Canada. www.latentspace.com

Kirsty White is a curator based in London, currently completing an MFA Curating at Goldsmiths, University of London. She studied BA Fine Art, at Curtin University, Western Australia, and was an invited scholar at École Nationale Supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris, in 2009/10. In January 2016 she presented a group exhibition of early career artists, *Objects from the Temperate Palm House*, an independent project co-curated with Chloe Reith and supported by Creative Scotland and the Hope Scott Trust. From 2014 to 2015 White was Exhibitions Officer at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. In 2013, as Temporary Assistant Curator at Inverleith House, Edinburgh, White delivered *Mostly West: Franz West and Artist Collaborations* (2013) and Dan Colen: *The Illusion of Life* (2013).

Visitor Information:

Richard Müller: *Crystalline Vitrine*
The Swiss Church in London
3 March - 18 March 2016

Opening reception: Thursday 3 March 6.30pm - 10pm

Opening hours: Thursday - Saturday 6pm - 9pm

Admission free

Email: info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk

For further information and high resolution images please contact: Kirsty White, kirsteewhite@gmail.com

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