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INSIDE BURGER COLLECTION

HOW TO SEE [WHAT ISN'T THERE]

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The artists in this exhibition are extremely inventive in activating the intangible in their work, often operating with conceptual gestures, disappearance, emptiness, dematerialization, and the simple, yet profound, framing of the void. The exhibition aims to unveil some of these surprising perspectives by exploring the constant dialogue between visible and invisible, presence and absence, and material and immaterial, exploring the status of reality, memory and other aspects of human life.

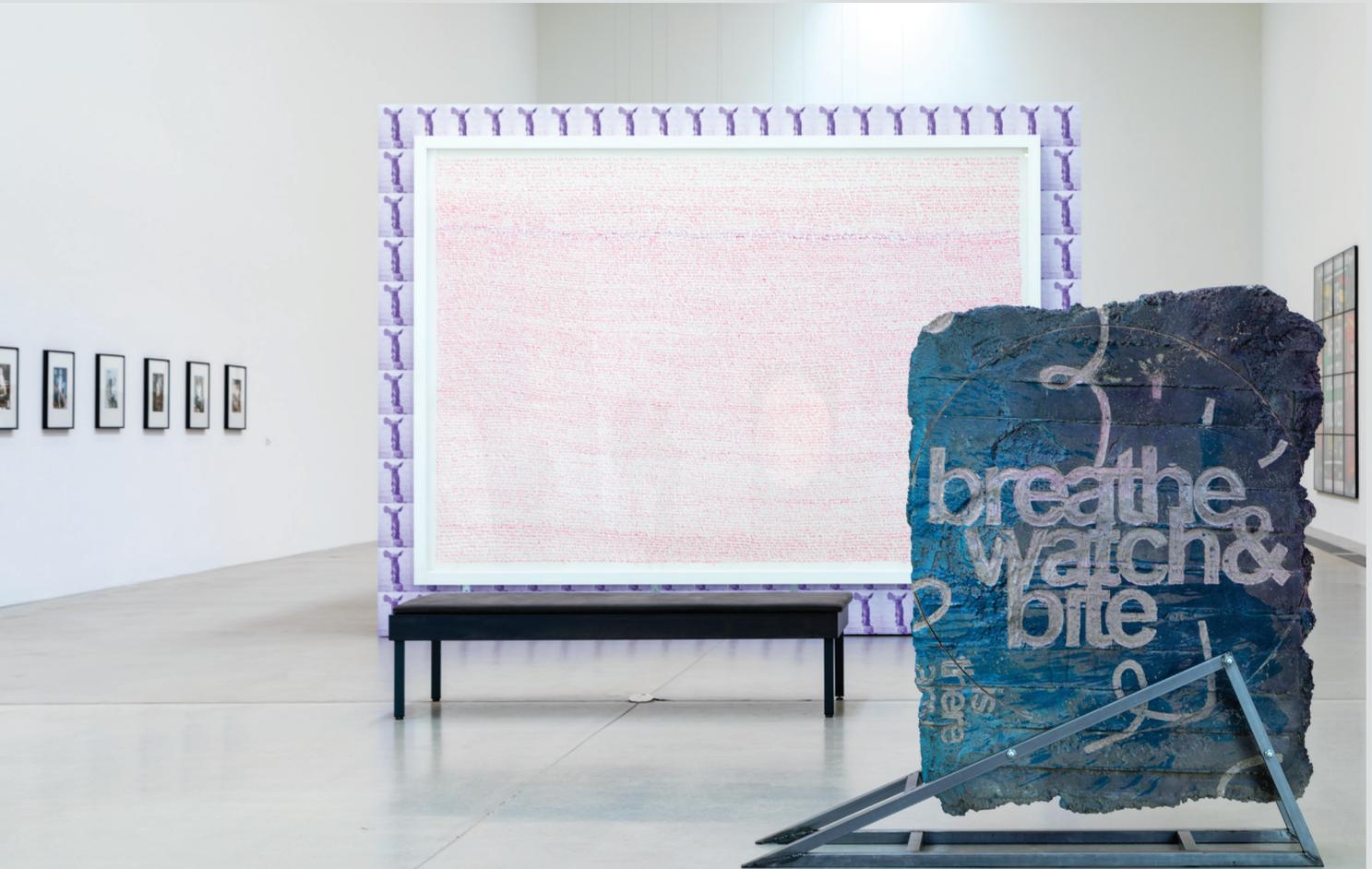
Gianni Jetzer

All images installation view of "How to See [What Isn't There]," a group show of works from the Burger Collection curated by Gianni Jetzer, at the Langen Foundation, Neuss, 2018–19. Photos by Bettina Diel. Courtesy Burger Collection, Hong Kong.

“Absences are not just what there is not, but rather what was there and *now is* not any longer, or what should be there and *yet is not.*”¹

¹ Elisa Adami, “In the Presence of Absence,” *Mnemoscape*, no. 2 (March 2015), 2.





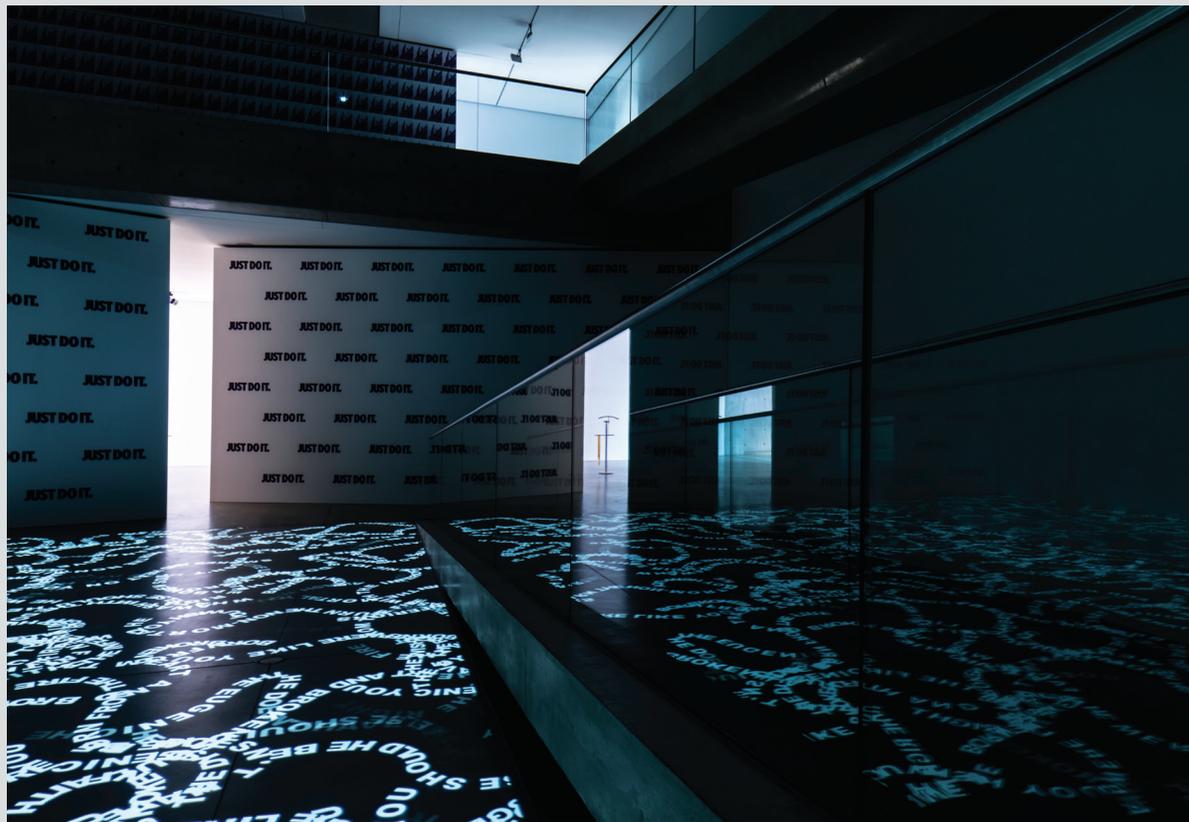
**“Thirty spokes meet at a nave;
Because of the hole we may use the wheel.
Clay is molded into a vessel;
Because of the hollow we may use the cup.
Walls are built around a hearth;
Because of the doors we may use the house.
Thus tools come from what exists,
But use from what does not.”²**

² Lao-Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, Chapter 11. As quoted in *Brian Rappert, Absence in Science, Security, and Policy: From Research Agendas to Global Strategy*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 9.



“In the end, are [absences] even objects, or just the empty spots left behind by the objects’ withdrawal, the wounds of a lack? Every time we try to determine them ontologically, or to express them in words, we need to recur to the grammatical mode of the negative and the rhetorical device of comparison.”³

³ Elisa Adami, “In the Presence of Absence,” *Mnemoscape*, no. 2 (March 2015), 2



Doug Aitken, Iván Argote, Davide Balula, Fiona Banner, Mohamed Bourouissa, Valentin Carron, Alejandro Cesarco, Angus Fairhurst, Urs Fischer, Sylvie Fleury, Gao Weigang, Gilbert & George, Douglas Gordon, Wang Guangle, Ho Sin Tung, Sabine Hornig, Huang Rui, Marguerite Humeau, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Kong Chun Hei, Fabian Marti, Kris Martin, Hans Op de Beeck, Pak Sheung Chuen, Jon Rafman, Pamela Rosenkranz, Fiete Stolte, The Propeller Group, Kin-Wah Tsang, Wang Du, Xie Lei and Zhang Huan.