



**DANIEL & GEO FUCHS: "TOYGIANTS"**

**12 June 2015 – 17 January 2016 Hall**

**Media preview: 11 June 2015 at 11.00 am**

**Artist/curator talks: 12 June 2015 at 12.00 noon**

**Opening night: 12 June 2015 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm**

Artists Daniel and Geo Fuchs work on conceptual projects which reveal an unusual side on the objects featured in them. By employing a rigorous system to take photographs, they explore other realities and a new visual language. In their series "Toygiants", they take us on an excursion to "Toy Land".

The subjects of the photographs range from imaginary superheroes to major historical figures: superheroes from films and comics such as *Batman*, *Superman*, *Terminator* and *Incredible Hulk*, action figures from legendary films like *Star Wars* and *Sin City* or Japanese manga such as *Jeeg* and *Ultraman*, historical world leaders such as George W. Bush and Che Guevara, as well as past and present popular culture celebrities such as Andy Warhol, Sylvester Stallone as Rambo, or the Daft Punk DJs. The selection is extremely wide-ranging with full-face view portraits, arranged group portraits, portraits arranged in installations and printed as huge wallpapers.

In the photographs, the figures have woken to a new life as they are staged like real personalities. The boundary between reality and fiction seems to dissolve. Some of the real-life figures are arranged into bizarre tableaux, impressively invoking the power of fantasy. Fantasy figures are also arranged in groups, creating "family photographs". The surreal details and powerful features of the characters acquire a new meaning, a unique, unknown world in large-format colour photographs.

While unfolding the terrifying, iconic effect of the toy figures, the "Toygiants" exhibition leaves interpretation to the viewer, who needs to figure out what is real and what is staged. "Toygiants" puts our viewing habits to the test. Daniel and Geo Fuchs show us a facet of a secondary world that has ingrained itself successfully within the first.

Fantasy figures, mostly produced in limited editions, have become popular collectors' items. Daniel and Geo Fuchs are intrigued by hidden collections. When they were put in touch with the collector Selim Varol and saw his huge collection of toy figures, the door to a new world opened to them. All the photographed toy figures come from the Selim Varol Collection that includes more than 10,000 items. Daniel and Geo Fuchs worked very closely together with Selim Varol for several years.

**Daniel Fuchs** (b. 1966) and **Geo Fuchs** (b. 1969) were both born and raised in West Germany. Since 1995, they have worked together on several conceptual projects, including "STASI - Secret Rooms" (2004–2007), "Toygiants" (2004–2008) as well as "Famous Eyes" (1999–2002), a documentation of contemporary celebrities posing with close-ups of their own eyes. Their works have been shown worldwide at a number of solo and group exhibitions as well as art fairs, including Kunsthalle Wien, Museum Villa Stuck Munich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Norton Museum of Art Palm Beach, Andy Warhol Museum Pittsburgh, CAC Malaga, Kunsthall Rotterdam, and Biennale of contemporary Art Thessaloniki.

**Additional information:**

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