

**John Armleder
Gerhard Merz**

August 24–October 10, 2016

Opening: Wednesday, August 24, starts at 5pm

Galerie Susanna Kulli / Dienerstrasse 21 / CH-8004 Zürich / Tel. +0041 (0)43 243 33 34
www.susannakulli.ch / Tue–Fri 1–6pm / Sat 11am–4pm

What monochromes can do:

John Armleder, *Furniture Sculpture 247*, 1990, 2.30 x 0.16 x 6.95 m and
Gerhard Merz, *Untitled*, 2003, 2.60 x 2.60m
come together for a portrait of first-class modernism in a nutshell.

Gerhard Merz's art is propelled by the conviction that modernism, operating with the means of architecture and within art's intrinsic laws such as proportion, color, light, surface, and space, allows for a specific form of abstraction in which no myth or surrogate reality impairs the desired vacancy and its effect.

The defining characteristic of his work is that he always considers the entire space, as was evident in his exhibition "Gemälde der Braut" (2014) at Galerie Susanne Kulli. The illumination concept he designed for the show remains in place, bathing the gallery in bright light.

The force of his painting is recognizable in the green monochrome. A painting whose *purité* is without equal and that rejects any imputation of spiritual depth. "Klein was a painter, I just paint surfaces," as he once put it.

John Armleder takes a simple set of wall bars, a piece of equipment that can be found in most school gyms, and strips it of its intended purpose. Flanked by two pastel monochromes, it is the central element of the artist's *Furniture Sculpture 247*.

A found object, a readymade in Marcel Duchamp's sense of the term, functions as the point of departure for a reflection on the structural and aesthetic quality of the "banal." Laid out in the form of a triptych, the work reaffirms Armleder's skepticism concerning a strict separation of the categories of sculpture and painting.

The exhibition at Galerie Susanna Kulli presents these two approaches to art-making, exemplified by two historic works, in juxtaposition in order to examine their interplay in the glare of Merz's lighting installation.