

Press release, June 4, 2014

Rubén Grilo

By One's Own Hand

June 14 - July 20, 2014

Opening Friday, June 13, 7 pm

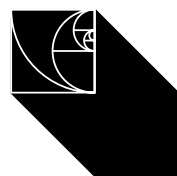
The work of Spanish artist Rubén Grilo typically begins with extensive research. Investigations into historical events, figures and technical procedures and materials are translated into images, projections and installations.

The exhibition in Hildesheim is Grilo's first institutional solo show in Germany, and all of the works on view are shown here for the first time. The exhibition results from research upon signets of the trader's guilds used in the 15th and 16th century. Another point of interest is the Ell of Hildesheim: a tool made of iron to measure cloth that was fixed to an outside wall of the town hall in the 16th century. It was obligatory to use this measuring instrument, which is – as opposed to the human ell that it is based upon – verifiable and repeatable. Such processes of standardization and abstraction based on the human body are in the background of many of Grilo's works. From today's viewpoint of cognitive capitalism he focuses and partly re-writes the history of the industrial revolution.

The topic of work runs like a recurrent interest through Grilo's works. It is articulated, for example, in ever new reflections of the body as a tool, and the articulation of subjectivity as well as the seat of perception. For a group of works begun in 2013, he copies the "used look" of a pair of jeans purchased at Zara. The traces of use on those jeans have been designed and generated by laser. Grilo's large denim panels contain bleached parts which are reminiscent of the shapes of the hollow of the knee or the friction of the cloth over the thighs. His newer pieces show gigantic hands that evoke images of grotesque, gargantuan human bodies. His observation of a fashion trends leads to the history of the material which is at the same time a history of changed body-work-relations. Denim cloth was used in the late 18th and early 19th century as a robust fabric to protect the body, worn by workers in mines and factories. The signs of wear were clearly traceable to the physical activities. Today's jeans usually contain elastic fiber to make them soft and comfortable to wear while sitting at desks or walking or using the bike. The adjustment of the jeans reflects the body working in a different way and the different relation of material and physicality: the artificial traces of a body are an abstraction applied to the cloth before it has ever been worn.

Here, artworks appear as accumulations of knowledge – knowledge to be experienced with the senses. Stories and histories of things, work and bodies are condensed and worked through, leading to objects and images that often retract into (at times digital) abstraction. The artist navigates through widely ramified fields, follows links, and adds new ones. Information becomes matter, the speculative approximation of objects becomes a method. The work, with its "analogue" techniques of art and handicraft, stands next to experiments with material in collaboration with the industry – altogether driven and marked by the ubiquitous flows of digital images, information, and communication.

Rubén Grilo (*1981 in Lugo, Spanien) lives in Berlin. Solo exhibitions (selection): CIRCA Projects, Newcastle upon Tyne (2013); Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid (2012); Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam (2012) und MARCO, Vigo (2011). Group exhibitions (selection): Martin Van Zomeren, Amsterdam (2013); Nest, Den Haag (2013); CSS Bard, New York (2011). From 2011 to 2013 he has been an artist in residency at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten (Amsterdam).



Exhibition

Rubén Grilo, *By One's Own Hand*

Duration	June 14–July 20, 2014
Press visit	Thursday, June 12, 2014, 11 am
Opening	Friday, June 13, 2014, 7 pm
Greeting	Beate König, Mayor, City of Hildesheim
Introduction	Kathrin Meyer, Kunstverein Hildesheim, Artistic Director
Opening hours	Wed 6–9 pm, Sa 2–6 pm, Sun 12–6 pm and by appointment
Entrance fee	3,- Euro, reduced fee 1,50 Euro Free for members and children/adolescents under 18 years

Press

Please contact Kathrin Meyer, meyer@kunstverein-hildesheim.de for images and any other inquiries.

Supporters

The exhibition is supported by the ministry of culture of Lower Saxony, ACCIÓN CULTURAL ESPAÑOLA (AC/E) and the city of Hildesheim. The educational programme of the Kunstverein Hildesheim is supported by the ministry of culture of Lower Saxony and the foundation of the VGH.



Programme

Guided tour with Kathrin Meyer

Sun, June 15, 3 pm (in German)
and by appointment (free for schools and universities, private tour 40 Euro).

Tour and talk with Rubén Grilo

Sun, July 6, 3 pm (in English)

Filmclub

Mon, July 7, 8 pm at WOHNZIMMER, Kaiserstraße 41, 31134 Hildesheim
Thematic film screening with talk and snack
Free entrance

