

Virtues and Filters and Bubbles

Sonia Knop

12.11.22—20.01.23

Nièce, Nice

Sonia Knop presents a nine frame video work titled *The Nice Observatory*. Shot in and around Nice and the Côte d'Azur, the video shifts between static footage of the surrounding landscape and a sole protagonist who performs a monologue directed at the camera — evoking a tone similar to that of the automaton named Olympia in E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Sandman*. The apathy and vacant tone of this character is pushed out into nature and the city's surrounding areas; insouciance meets a shifting horizon.

A series of silkscreen prints and fabric works extend the landscape imagery from the video into the adjacent gallery space. Solid blocks of colour are collaged against fragmented film stills of building facades, plant beds, and window panes. The dividing lines of the landscape join the framing lines of a film strip.

Sonia Knop's videos and installations use performance and improvisation as a way of generating experimental narratives. Taking influence from the genres of true crime, thriller and experimental documentary, portraits of amateur actors in their familiar environments blur the boundaries between documentary and fiction.

She studied fine arts at Städelschule Frankfurt am Main (Class of Judith Hopf, 2022) and Cooper Union, New York (2020).