

BLOCK 1

Installation

Galerie Mark Müller, Guestroom, Zurich

Zurich Airport, UBS, Art at Work, catalog (2007)

Markus Stegmann

Light green window shutters are decorated with yellow patterns. The net curtains are studiously tied back with bows so that they fall in regular folds. This composition, which was produced on the computer, appears to represent the windows of a house in the country. However, the sleek sterility of the computer image, which creates a sense of distance, does not exactly evoke the comforting feeling of homeliness and timeless charm that the motif would have us believe. We may think of grandmother's little house in the country, but the ornamental patterns, shutters, and curtains are so artificial that the question arises as to whether the ideal world imagined here—far away from our global, urban environment—still exists at all. Artist duo Wälchli & Reichlin perform a delicate balancing act between wishful thinking and reality, which is to a certain extent photographic, may suggest “authenticity,” but its obvious artificiality instantly puts it to the test and unmasks it as a cliché that we carry within us.