

Sanitarian Reflections

Taken from the preliminary report for the stipend of the canton of Thurgau 2005

A few chrome-plated brackets are still lying on the drawing table. Painted from an unaccustomed perspective on a neutral background of white paper, the ordinary objects take on an outlandish appearance. The two thin hand-towel bars, which protrude from a spherical head, look like the long legs of a gigantic insect. From another angle the same spherical head appears to be a space probe. The double-layered glass bracket, with one bracket turned at a 90 ° angle and the other at 180°, is hardly discernible in the chimerical structure. The three arms intended for shower attachments, which form an incidental group on the paper, lend it an almost violent effect, as if they were the arms of an android about to snatch. In taking a closer look at the reflections painted on the metal, one discovers the artist's own portrait. She is visible, though in miniature. She can be seen bending over her study objects with paintbrush in hand, her tiny face framed by her hair. Caught in a moment of mischief, she painted herself into the installations. Her multiple mirrored images populate the blue reflecting metal surfaces like elfish daemons. The mirrored image on the spherical head is in turn reflected on yet another spherical head and reproduced on every curved surface. The unexpected symbiosis between reflecting chrome and painted self-reflection does not generate an eerie metaphysical feeling, but more a bemused chuckle.

Rita Knecht, 2006