

Christoph Hänsli

Location: Hotel Bellevue-Terminus, attic

The world is full of things that we overlook. Because they are too familiar to us. Because we don't have time or are busy with other things. And at some point they disappear from our perception as if they didn't exist. So it's good to have someone who sees these things and paints them so that we can see them again. Because art, as Paul Klee already knew, makes the invisible visible.

Christoph Hänsli's mission is to capture what is normally overlooked. You could call it "care work" on things, which he has been doing with brush and palette since the 1990s. With old-masterly precision and always on a 1:1 scale, he paints bowls of currywurst with leftover sauce, shelves full of files, botanical specimens in jars, signs that no longer refer to anything—and again and again cupboards, boxes and chests of drawers with flaps and doors, behind which other things are presumably dawning towards oblivion. As part of *Backstage Engelberg*, Hänsli is showing a selection of these utility furniture portraits in the attic of Hotel Bellevue-Terminus. In a wonderfully irritating way, they appear here not only as the result of a strict painterly concept, but also as if they were part of the scenery. With a sober eye and attention to detail, Hänsli charges the closed doors of his furniture with expectation. And shows: what we suspect behind them—beauty or horror—depends entirely on us.
(roe)

Christoph Hänsli, born 1963 in Zurich, lives and works in Zurich. His paintings have been exhibited many times, most recently in Switzerland at Kunsthaus Zürich (2022), Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil-Jona (2021), Villa Renata, Basel (2020), and Last Tango, Zurich (2019).

Further information: christophhaensli.ch