

Daniele Buetti

Location: Hotel Terrace, old staircase

Daniele Buetti became known in the 1990s for his manipulated photographs, light box installations and drawings that both fetishized and deconstructed the flawless beauty of supermodels and the idea of luxury associated with them. In fashion photographs, he added scars to the models' skin in the form of company logos or claims. Time and again, he has put subversive statements in their mouths that cast a glance behind the façade of the fashion industry and its logic of exploitation, attraction and identity construction. Buetti addressed the selfie culture in portraits from lifestyle magazines by replacing the faces with mirrors, thus thematizing the gap between personal experience and media feedback. With his wall piece *Falling Dogs*, created especially for *Backstage Engelberg*, Daniele Buetti now explores the surprising potential of images. On the aging bamboo wallpaper in the old stairwell of the Terrace, he lets a series of dog silhouettes fall from the third floor. Even if you can't make out any details because of the great distance, you think you can see the astonished expressions of the animals in front of you: their twisted eyes searching for orientation, their legs rowing helplessly in the air or kicking with happiness. Everything they represent—strength, pride, certainty—disappears the moment they lose control of their bodies. The free fall takes away their old sovereignty for a moment and at the same time opens their senses to the unexpected, the unpredictable, which suddenly makes the world appear in a new light.

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Daniele Buetti was born in Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1955 and lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. His work has been exhibited widely, most recently at the Savina Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea (2024), the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2019), the Kunsthaus Zürich (2018), and the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2014). From 2004 to 2022 he was a professor at the Kunstakademie Münster, Germany.