

Jochem Hendricks

Location: Hotel Bellevue-Terminus, Erlen Saal and attic

Privately, we like to think of ourselves as unique. But when you meet a doppelganger, someone with whom you share a name or a strong resemblance, it can be quite sobering—if not a little scary. Jochem Hendricks' group of works *Collapsed Avatar* invites such a confrontation. Just imagine if these damaged porcelain busts bore the features not of the Frankfurt artist, but of you or me. Bizarre.

The genre portrait bust is firmly established in the history of art: it commemorates a specific person, seeks to capture their individual features and reproduce their expression in a representative manner. The genre is classic, almost conservative, the material prestigious. But when a bust goes into serial production, bric-a-brac or tourist kitsch is not far away. And the fact that it collapses, cracks, tilts or breaks is certainly not one of the characteristics of the bust. Jochem Hendricks has been handing over a porcelain self-portrait to the kiln since 2011. In keeping with the representational nature of the bust, he has recently experimented with gold and platinum alloys. The working process generates errors and accidents, but “I see them as a sign of a higher order and accept every result,” says Hendricks. Regardless of whether a crack runs through the back of the head, a wedge has sliced it open or the upper body is subject to warping, Hendricks places his avatars on pedestals. It's a bit like erecting a monument to fallibility or a symbol of one's limited perception. Hendricks' *Collapsed Avatar* pleads for a relaxed approach to the ego. (ah)

Jochem Hendricks, born 1959 in Schlüchtern, Germany, lives and works in Frankfurt am Main, Germany; he studied in Frankfurt, New York and Berlin. His work has been exhibited at Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, Germany (2022), The New Art Gallery, Walsall, Great Britain (2013), and Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland (2012).

Further information: jochem-hendricks.de