

Robert Kuśmirowski

Liberum Animum

2017

installation: ready-mades, mixed-media, light bulb

310 cm x 158 cm x 248 cm

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

Robert Kuśmirowski's installation is a container full of trinkets, used items and antiques. On the old wooden shelves, tables and bookcases stand tightly arranged sculptures, damaged toys, dolls and their individual parts, tools, devotional articles, mannequin heads, authentic photographs, and manipulated collages. Virtually every nook and cranny of space, including walls and floors, is occupied by some object. Only a narrow passage is left in the middle. Most of the room is dark, and the pale yellow, point-like lighting makes the peculiar exhibits even more eerie and ominous.

Liberum animum in Latin means free mind. The title, read in the context of the work, seems to be a euphemism and a somewhat narcissistic justification for the reasons for the atypical collection of terrifying artefacts. The owner of the claustrophobic microworld of peculiarities could be a humanist-madman with a specific aesthetic taste, who has lost the sense of how to differentiate between the passion for collecting, the love of nostalgia, and the morbid collecting.

Robert Kuśmirowski, called by critics "a genius of a dummy", "a forger of reality" or "a genius imitator", creates works that resemble real objects. Therefore, we do not know whether the items collected in the installation are authentic or whether they have been crafted by the artist with extraordinary accuracy.

description: Emilia Lipa

translation: Krystian Kamiński

model: Adrianna Wilewska

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