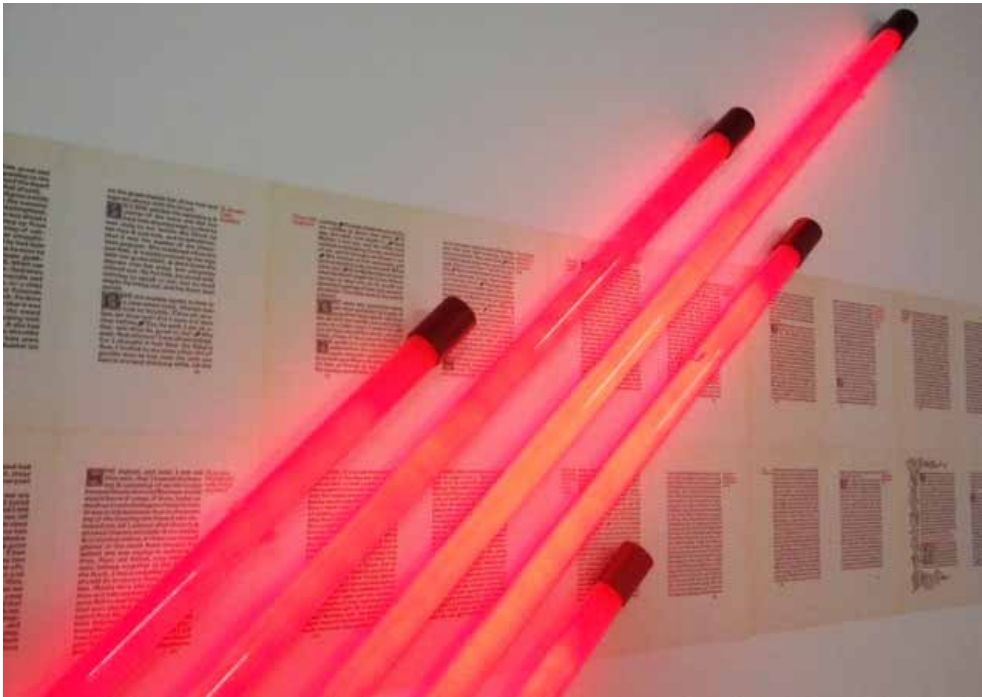


David Mabb Henrik Schrat

LoBe

London Berlin Art Kunst

**Private View**

Saturday 12.01.2013, 7pm

Exhibition continues

until 31.01.2013

Open

Thursday - Saturday

1 - 6 pm

or by appointment

(please call +49 171 7724 502)

David Mabb and Henrik Schrat have responded to each other's work by intertwining their respective interests in utopias and dystopias. This exhibition is a result of a process of filtration of formal historical manifestations of the utopian thinking. The artists have used two books as a departing point: William Morris' *Wood beyond the World*, 1892 and *Roadside Picnic* by Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, 1977. Based on the principles of dynamism and ambivalence, rather than constructing a new utopia, this exhibition acts as a fresh reference to historical utopian imaginary, with a particular emphasis to Communism of various origin (Utopian Communism, Avant-garde Communism, „Communism“ from 45-89 in Eastern Europe). This historical references are used in order to critically and indirectly examine the nearest nearness through the means of visual arts. As a result William Morris's Kelmscott press facsimile of a late romance fantasy narrative (Mabb) intersects with the Memorial to Boris Strugatsky (Schrat) and a mural that crosses (Schrat) both is lit by the glow of a Red Rocket (Mabb). The sounds of Red Wedding, a Communist fighting anthem, form the soundtrack to a video of pixilating Morris' flower patterns. This collaborative exhibition is based on a collaborative atmosphere of exchange, manifested in the works that act as a totality, rather than a sum of its parts.

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Henrik Schrat has studied Painting and Stage Design in Dresden, Germany, and completed a Master in Fine Art Media at the Slade School in London in 2002. In 2011 he has finished a doctorate at the University of Essex with Comic and its potential as visual display of organizations as its theme. He has shown his work internationally in group and solo shows, among others in Global Players (Tokio, 2005), Eat the Food, (MOCCA, Toronto) 2007), Report on Probability B (IMT, London, 2012). Schrat's visual work has focused on side specific narrative murals and drawing work with comic as multi-use-format. His latest narrative visuals have extended to wood inlay work, confronting the slow traditional technique with comic style and contemporary content.

David Mabb has been working with the designs of 19th century designer and socialist William Morris for over ten years. William Morris thought that interior design had a fundamental role to play in the transformation of everyday life. This essentially political motivation - a commitment to the radical potential of design - is behind much of his work as a designer and craftsman and the setting up of Morris & Co. Mabb's paintings, photographs, textiles and videos all, in different ways, work with and against Morris' utopian designs by contrasting them with other forms of modernist production. David Mabb has exhibited internationally and has had twenty-seven solo exhibitions including shows in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Lithuania, USA, Canada and in India. He has also been an Abbey Fellow in Painting at The British School at Rome.

LoBe is a residency-led contemporary art space, which provides artists with an opportunity to develop their practice within an environment that promotes dialogue, collaboration, exhibition making and interdisciplinary practice. The aim of the project is to develop meaningful cross-cultural networks within a British German context by giving artists from the UK the opportunity to collaborate with Berlin based artist and visa versa, in our permanent space in Berlin.

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