

Lost Control

In the work of artist **Magnus Thierfelder** one is always confronted with a constant and consistent curiosity that rather manifests different attempts to deal with and understand the everyday that surrounds us, and it is from this state of curiosity that the installation *Lost Control* (2005) takes-off. His work stems from a deep interest in the way we decode everyday information and quotidian signals, and how we consequently have learnt to systematise, classify and rationalise our impressions. The greater the information flow, the more rapid we become at classifying – an overtly positive quality it seems. And the better we become at rationalising information, the faster we can move on. We simply learn how to use the system, the way it is designed to be used.

The artist and computer pioneer Erkki Kurenniemi was once asked if he feared that the computers would take over control in the future. He simply answered that as long as man does not use technology the way it is designed to be used, as long as man “misuses” the system, there is no chance that this can happen.

In *Lost Control* (2005) the characteristic office plant has left its artificial milieu, departed from its pot and gone up to the ceiling, and the monotony of an everyday pattern is being emphasised and turned into an act of subversive everyday revolt. In a previous work, *Fountain* (2004), a small leak in the water pipes of the gallery elegantly carried off its quite magnificent title. The magic of an imaginative and ingenious action becomes the way out and it is precisely in this act of insecurity, when standing in front of a non-logical situation, that one has to sharpen one’s attention. In this moment of pause and surprise we indeed play a trick on the system.

Elena Tzotzi, curator