

# TUNNEL TUNNEL

Alex Turgeon: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier  
Curated by Simon Würsten

October 21 – November 18, 2017  
Opening reception: October 21, 6 pm

Tunnel Tunnel is pleased to invite you to the opening of the first solo exhibition by Alex Turgeon in Switzerland, guest-curated by Simon Würsten.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is aiming at making tangible the staged manifestations of melancholy and nostalgia in popular culture. Within the exhibition, Alex Turgeon focuses on the motif of the blue rose, a metaphor which combines the colour of depression—as described by the expression «to feel blue»—with both the symbol of romanticism and that of fallacy, as blue roses do not naturally exist and must be artificially colourized. Like in a charade, Turgeon relies on this motif to elaborate a semiotic grid that explores commonplace representations of love and loss and the fictionalized dramatization of romantic hopelessness. As a result of this research, grief not only arises as an individual feeling of nostalgia, rejection and heartbreak but also as the construction of a kitsch sense of collective identity. To this extent, the «Unknown Soldier» embodies the ambiguous status of an anonymous subject of communitarian mourning. Just as the blue rose is a fictitious construction, the soldier's sepulchre thus operates as a camp vehicle for a common mythology, wherein the exhibition space takes the form of a crude urban mausoleum and its glass façade becomes the literal expression of an emotional state of despair of a building in disrepair. This results in a patchwork of found fragments that build together a network of stereotypical references to melancholy, while simultaneously characterizing a romantic fantasy of an heroic figure.

Alex Turgeon was born in 1988 in Halifax (Canada). He lives and works in Berlin.

Simon Würsten was born in 1991 in Lausanne. He lives and works between Zurich and Basel.

Tunnel Tunnel  
Espace d'art indépendant  
Place du Tunnel  
1005 Lausanne

tunneltunnel.ch  
Open every Saturday, 11–2 pm and by appointment

The exhibition is supported by the Embassy of Canada

**Canada**

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