



Open Source Gallery, Inc - 501(c)(3) organization
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 Open Hours: Thurs + Fri: 4-6pm, Sat + Sun: 2-6pm
 For press inquiries, please contact us at contact@opensourcegallery.org

MARLENE HAUSEGGER | SCABBY: A RAT ABOUT TOWN

October 26 - November 29, 2024

Opening Reception: October 26, 7-9pm

Gallery Hours: Thurs + Fri: 4-6pm, Sat + Sun: 2-6pm

Open Source Gallery is pleased to present *Scabby: A Rat About Town*, a site-specific exhibition by Marlene Hausegger.

Scabby, a giant inflatable rat, is a familiar sight in New York, serving as the unofficial mascot of organized labor and making an appearance on picket lines and sites of active corporate labor disputes throughout the city. Marlene Hausegger began her research on Scabby in the autumn of 2022, when she got in contact with the New York State Laborer’s Union to document the installation of Scabby as a protest against a global real estate development and investment firm that had hired workers without a contract. For her exhibition at Open Source, Hausegger deepens this research, exploring the culture of street protest and labor activism through the lens of this massive rodent.



Scabby the Rat has been a supporter of workers’ rights both here in the United States and abroad, and now it’s his turn for a moment in the spotlight. In *Scabby: A Rat About Town*, the inflatable rat – which, ironically, is only manufactured by nonunion employers – is the centerpiece of Hausegger’s exhibition, painted with the lyrics of Bruce Springsteen’s song “Factory” and overflowing the gallery from floor to ceiling. Three-dimensional black and white photographs surround the mascot, and collected New York “Unionvoices,” including interviews with Natalie Monarrez, activist and former worker at Amazon, and Eric Dirnbach, unionmember, organizer, and researcher, give voice to Scabby’s history and participation in fights for better working conditions.

Marlene Hausegger’s practice is interested in the hidden limitations and restricted possibilities of social situations, which she discovers in the public realm. Marlene Hausegger’s interventions and installations have been shown among others at Monira Foundation, New Jersey, Museum Belvedere21, Vienna; Chamber of Labour, Vienna; Künstlerhaus, Bregenz; Vernacular Institute, Mexico City; Biennial Konjic, Bosnia; Biennial for Architecture, Belgrade; Stedelijk Museum, s’-Hertogenbosch; , Graz; Museum Lentos, Linz; Bjcem Biennial, Skopje. She teaches at the Art University Linz and from 2019-2023 she worked as part of the Public Art Committee Lower Austria. 2018 she received the Austrian State Stipend for Fine Arts, 2023 the Gabriele Heidecker artprize.

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