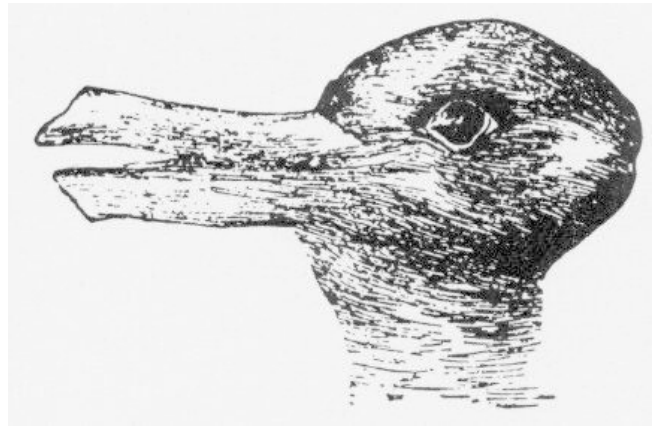


GALERIE MAÏA MULLER



Five Cacti for Wittgenstein is an edition of 5 small ceramic sculptures, which takes Wittgenstein's theory a step further, by appropriating the popular rabbit-duck-*Kippbild* (picture puzzles ~ ambiguous images) and reincarnating it as a potted cactus.

Each sculpture contains a multitude of possibilities to see *the object as something* or to see *the object as itself* or how it stands in *connection to its surroundings*.

In the *Philosophische Untersuchungen*, the last main work by Wittgenstein, the German philosopher uses *Kippbilder* to analyze human perception. One example is a duck's-head, which also can be seen as a rabbit's head (see picture above).

He thus distinguishes how we see *something as something* from the way of *just seeing something*.

Looking at the image and recognizing the shape of a rabbit, one cannot see the duck and vice-versa. Seeing either the duck or the rabbit keeps the viewer from being able to focus on the image and its specific qualities ~ how is it made, what is it made of?

What do we actually see? What will make us switch from one point of view to another?

Wittgenstein's method is an entertaining way to approach a serious way of self-analysis and sharpening one's senses.

How does it change the way we look at the sculpture, if it is placed next to a real plant – how does it change the way we look at what surrounds the sculpture?

While I had been on the island of Elba in early summer 2017, I was wondering about the cacti at the beach that had been mutilated by love-sick teenagers.

They carved their names and hearts into the cacti and also pierced holes through the petals with sticks and knives.

The way these plants grow in nature is fascinating and they immediately became part of my visual research and vocabulary in painting and sculpture.

Fritz Bornstück,
Altfriedland, 26.07.2019