

ARTISTS' PROJECTS

PIETER SCHOOLWERTH AND PHILIP VANDERHYDEN'S CG VIDEO *SUPPORTING ACTOR*

By Artforum Video

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Pieter Schoolwerth and Phil Vanderhyden, *Supporting Actor*, 2024, 4K video with sound by Aaron Dilloway, 10 minutes 48 seconds (looped). Excerpt: 3 minutes 17 seconds.

There's an awful lot to unpack in Pieter Schoolwerth's latest outing at Petzel's flagship Chelsea gallery, and every enticement to do so. Radiating out from a central installation consisting of a graphically generic bathroom-cum-mock-metaverse, tipped sideways and stretching up almost to the ceiling, are a stunning suite of large-scale paintings staging delightfully confounding yet thoroughly commanding mash-ups of abstract, figurative, digital, and analog material. The topsy-turvy enclosure doubles as a wormhole to a miniature version of the show and an adjacent metaphorical tech-art laboratory—too weird and elaborate to detail here—allegorizing the work's production and the intersplicing of actual and virtual realities more generally. Abutting the left-hand side of the upended room is a stage-like platform, on which sound artist Aaron Dilloway performed a rousing guttural ode to corporeality on opening night. But wait, there's more: Providing a welcome key to the quasi-narrative logic linking all the elements of this psychedelic *Gesamtkunstwerk* is a composite-big-screen presentation of a roughly eleven-minute, high-resolution video titled *Supporting Actor* (also the namesake of the overall exhibition) produced by Schoolwerth in collaboration with artist and CG-software maestro Philip Vanderhyden, with sound by Dilloway. Appearing here is a three-minute seventeen-second excerpt made especially for this context. Buckle up!

—Jeff Gibson