

FALSE GIANTS

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Opening: Friday, 19 October 2007, 7-10 p.m.
through 23 November 2007 (Wed.-Sat. 2-7 p.m.)

*If you see a giant,
check the position of the sun and make sure
it's not the shadow of a dwarf.*
(Novalis)

Mr. Tur Tur, in Michael Ende's book *Jim Button*, is a false giant: The farther away he is, the bigger he looks, and the closer you get to him, the smaller he is.

The phenomenon of reversal of visual habits, as embodied by this fictional character, has motivated a variety of reflections in science and in everyday life on human dimensions, perception, size and spatial relationships: In astronomy, the term "false giant" refers to celestial objects beyond a distance of 14 billion light years that appear larger the farther away they are. Theories of perception and relativity, philosophy and visual art repeatedly pose questions about our view of things, human perspective and the space-time continuum. The media often call figures from the worlds of politics and business "false giants," thereby charging them with deception or overestimation of their own capabilities. The reversal of entrenched visual routines serves both literally and figuratively as a peg for the reexamination of our position, function and valence in society, the world and the universe.

For Stedefreund, false gianthood provides an impetus to start off the second year by gathering all the gallery's artists for a group portrait: Each contribution takes up the theme of dimension and (dis)proportionality in a different way; together they add up to a collective installation.

In Morrowland only those who dare to get up close to a false giant can see that he's exactly the same size as a normal person. Because no one has the courage to do so, Mr. Tur Tur is very lonely. The exhibition "False Giants" is an invitation to break out of entrenched ways of seeing and risk a new view.

[Carla Orthen]