

Monat der Stipendiaten,
[curated by Angela Lammert], Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE
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Steven Baelen is constantly drawing his immediate environment, which he transfers with a pencil into a small notebook, from there to a larger format – DIN A4 or even DIN A3 – in order to then, in the last phase, end up with charcoal mural. Baelen is, therefore, a passionate illustrator of the kind one seldom meets these days.

However, these are no ordinary sketches, as one immediately sees. They only depict the actual environment to a certain extent. Much more they deal with a layered superimposition of objects from various ateliers of the artist – all the way to a sunshade from his mother's garden.

Although everything appears to be put onto the wall with equal intensity, without any hierarchy, Steven Baelen has at least a vague order in mind. The ceiling is above, the furniture is below, and in the middle is the window – the window, by the way, that he looked out of when in his atelier in the Akademie on Hanseatenweg.

Nicola Kuhn