



Blank Planet exhibition at Ornamentum 2013

Alexander Blank

Introduced to the jewelry world by accident when a photographer he was hoping to work for already had an apprentice, Alexander Blank went next door to a goldsmith who was hiring and discovered his passion for jewelry. Following his apprenticeship, he went on to study technical training in Hanau and Hannover before joining the Design Academy in Hanua and delving into contemporary jewelry. He completed his studies at the Academy of Fine Art in Munich under Professor Otto Künzli. His work can be found in many private and public collections such as the Pinakothek der Moderne Munich, Danner Collection Munich, National Museum of Scotland, Hiko Mizuno Collection Tokyo, and several others. Alexander Blank's work reinterprets iconic symbols; cartoon characters, postcard palm trees, corporate logos, and his emblematic smiley face are presented in a humorously macabre manner with a sharp attention to detail. For Ornamentum's 20 Year exhibition, he asked to present a series of 'Crooked Smiley' rings and a wall piece- an upsizing of his original Smiley brooch that has become quite recognizable in the contemporary jewelry lexicon.

Blank statement of the new pieces, "Of course I had to do something with the smiley that you see everywhere, in your text messages, advertisements, pop ups, etc. You kind of get bombed with it!

It somehow lost its symbolism or its iconic value that I know it had in hippy times as a feel good symbol or as part of the youth movement of acid house music and its drug abuse. There it was used on flyers for parties or t-shirts or any other accessories. The Smiley kind of lost its origin because it was used in multiple meanings and will always be reborn freshly for any possible occasion in the future.

It gets abused in a way!

What remains if a Smiley gets worn out?

A smiley that went through all these periods and already had its hard and good times.

Sure, one that has dents and marks on the shiny happy face, but still keeps on smiling, keeps you up! Like this one..."

