

HEIKE EIPELDAUER

## EIN ORT AUS JETZTEN, STEPHANIE PFLAUM.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION AT THE BANK AUSTRIA  
KUNSTFORUM, VIENNA 2014

Evocatively allusive assemblages, which are enriched by means of stereotypical scenic elements and can sometimes expand into three-dimensional environments, characterise the artistic practice of the Austrian painter Stephanie Pflaum. For the Tresor of the Bank Austria Kunstforum, Pflaum has designed an enchanted living room with an individual and mythological symbolic horizon. Simultaneously a dream image and a place of refuge, her room within an Exhibition room invites us to actively search for clues and it makes its surroundings into a stage that we can walk into, where the perception of art and self-perception merge, thus recalling precursors ranging from the environments and happenings of the 1960s and 1970s all the way back to Kurt Schwitters's "Merzbau" of the 1920s. Before the foil of the white cube, it develops the overflowing abundance of its materials and layers of memory into an almost indecipherable "imaginary world", which reflects life in its dichotomy between Eros and death, beauty and decay, construction and destruction: remnants of a private living room are interspersed with found everyday utilitarian objects, the worldly with the sacred, the apparently real with the obviously artificial. Whether anatomic models, fragments of furniture, masks, children's dresses, books, burnt pictures or plastic flowers – everything is coated with a fine veil of white plaster that establishes a relationship between these things, in their heterogeneous diversity.