Flash Art
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VIENNA

PIERRE BISMUTH

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Are we allowed to say that art is fun? Pierre Bismuth takes a playful but subtle look at automatism, the way we perform complex acts of perception subconsciously. The work *something less something more* (2004), which supplies the title for his first one-man show in Austria, consists of an enormous double sheet of plywood with circular sections of different sizes cut out of it. Nearby, the removed sections have been piled up. Placed diagonally across the room, it dominates the entire gallery, forcing visitors to climb through its holes to traverse the space. Bismuth's earlier work made us look at how we take in visual situations or modes of speech; here he is addressing the way we perceive space.

The video work *Link* (2002) also plays with the way we perceive space, but remains on a two-dimensional plane. In *Jungle Book Projects* (2002), Bismuth looks at another aspect of perception — language — by letting each character in the Disney classic speak a different language. You only become aware of this tower of Babel after listening for a while; we are so used to the images that the sound only makes its presence felt gradually. Bismuth goes further into the language field in *translation piece* (2004), in which he sets up a whole language system.

Of all the other works on view, let me just mention *replace by the same* (2004), a series of film posters in which details have been pasted over with identical sections. Here awareness comes into play by asking what is underneath: the same thing or rather something different after all.

Nora Theiss

(Translated from German by Michael Robinson)