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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin**

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**Sam Pulitzer. Whim or Sentiment or Chance**

19 October 2018 – 14 April 2019

An exhibition by the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, supported by Baloise Group

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Whim or Sentiment or Chance. The title of this exhibition refers to a theory from the 1930s by British economist John Maynard Keynes, according to which decisions are often made on the basis of whim or sentiment or chance and animal spirits (animal instincts) rather than rational calculations. Pulitzer's first institutional exhibition in Germany at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin centers on this narrow corridor made of aluminum and transparent acrylic glass. The seven drawings inside reveal the artist's—whose practice continues to be critical of institutions—affinity for linguistic games, hidden references, logos, and pop culture. Among them are symbols such as a cheap Venetian mask welcoming us to take a look at ourselves, or a sarcastic cartoon owl setting off for a night shift.

The installation is juxtaposed with other groups of works by Pulitzer and works from the collection of the Nationalgalerie by Daniel Buren, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Mona Hatoum, Jenny Holzer, Jonathan Horowitz, Gülsün Karamustafa, Bruce Nauman, Raymond Pettibon, Gregor Schneider, and Roman Signer; a selection that was made together with the artist. These works serve to complement, comment on, or question his installation on a thematic or material level.

Sam Pulitzer is the winner of the Baloise Art Prize 2017. Since 1999, the Baloise Group annually awards the Baloise Art Prize to two young artists in the Statements sector of Art Basel. An international jury awards the prizes, each endowed with CHF 30,000. In addition, the Baloise Group acquires works by the winning artists and donates them to two major European museums, currently the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (since 2017) and the MUDAM, Luxembourg. The commitment also includes the presentation of the works in the museums in the year following the award ceremony. As part of this cooperation, the Baloise Group purchased his work *Acrylic Display Corridor, Animal Spirits* for the Nationalgalerie and facilitated the exhibition and publication.

Curated by Ina Dinter, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin.