

Inside | Outside: Trading Between Art and Architecture

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Abstract:

Pardo's Plumbing

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Jorge Pardo's installation 15.11.2014 – 24.01.2015 at neugerriemschneider, Berlin, included bathrooms that were plumbed and sewered, and yet placed as they were in the middle of the gallery, unusable, or, at least, unused. Here we find a reciprocity with the commonplace saying that architectural pavilions, such as those of the Serpentine Galleries program, are a facile kind of 'architecture without plumbing'. This question of utility is often invoked in discussing disciplinary boundaries between architecture and the visual arts. I argue that the question of use plays out differently in architecture and the visual arts, but in both it comes back to Immanuel Kant's concept of art having a purposiveness that is not a purpose.