

## **Bistro 21**

**Hermann-Liebmann-Straße 88**

**04315 Leipzig**

**www.bistro21.org**

# **The Mob Shop**

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Two years ago three artists went for a few days from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. This type of road trip is a well-known scenario: renting a fancy car and traveling through the desert to the ‚Disneyland for adults‘.

As tourists they only saw the Strip. They met Elvis among other long gone dead stars. They visited casinos and gambled throughout facades of New York and Venice. They had dinner at the Cesar Palace and in the evening took a walk to the Egyptian Sphinx. They had lost all sense of time and place. The casino won immediately and they just let it be.

What they saw, they translated to the language of art- the language that they like the most.

For ‚The Mob Shop‘ exhibition, Markus Liehr has taken the opportunity to show the glamorous face of Las Vegas. By depicting the most expensive villas he shows the American Dream coming true. Going deeper into the matter, every painted interior - probably just like every other luxury place in Las Vegas - has a

criminal story behind it. Paintings ‚Bel Air‘ and ‚Bel Air 2‘ show the house where famous Benjamin ‚Bugsy‘ Siegel, the owner of Flamingo Hotel, was killed.

Christoph Beyer’s work concentrates on the topic of a typical migraine aura pattern. An aura pattern is what we see just before a migraine occurs. It starts in a small area and grows outward. The pattern which has been visualized on the jacket attempts to capture what is projected when one’s brain receives excessive visual stimuli.

Anita Mikas’ works present some of the most well-known hotels of Las Vegas. Similar to Beyer, Mikas’ technique also refers to excessive of visual stimuli. She emphasizes that even if casinos nowadays have clear and symmetrical architecture, they are nevertheless built to manipulate the visitor. It does not take more than a few minutes for the casino guests to stop thinking clearly and become incapable of proper decision making.

**Christoph Beyer**

**Markus Liehr**

**Anita Mikas**