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AXES, (Dylan Batty, Mitchel Cumming & Maria Smit, Alex Gawronski and Shane Haseman. Curated by KNULP, Sydney)

Goya Curtain, Ikebukuro, Tokyo, July 6 - 28, 2019

Doorhandles appear as though suspended in mid-air. Functioning as functionless symbols, these pieces consider obliquely and more broadly, issues of contemporary access, and free movement across borders and territories. On the one hand, movement is portrayed as unfettered in today's global context. On the other hand, it is forever frustrated and selective. Who goes where and when is controlled. Travel, the ability to freely transgress borders, is also virtual and seemingly limitless online. Yet even here, movement is constantly policed and diverted.

This work estranges basic hardware, the simple mechanisms of locks and door handles, those things that facilitate access to, and movement within, space. Yet it abstracts these just as Francis Picabia once reproduced images of spark plugs and other machine parts, re-authoring them as 'art'. The work could also be read in the spirit of certain cinematic gags where a character conspicuously makes the effort to open and close an otherwise panelless door, rather than just simply walking right through: what secures us also contains us. Space is always only a question of relations and possibilities, none of which are without limits.

Alex Gawronski