

Maïke Christadler

**Gender and Violence.**

**Representation and mediality around 1500**

Executed in the 'realistic' mode, many of the drawings of the Swiss artist UG show mercenaries and prostitutes, often both together, treating love affairs. What seem to be representations of every day life are here regarded as careful constructions of gender and of the way of representing it. Grafts drawings expose the imaginary quality of gender identities and show their construction as a process of looking at and talking about images. Signing many of his works very prominently with his monogram the artist makes himself present in the fictional space, taking the position of the first viewer of his subjects. The monogram visualizes the power of the (male) gaze in shaping what it sees - here mostly female bodies. But the evident trace of artistic production which is the monogram also disrupts the mimetic fiction and exposes the process of looking thus disturbing the empowerment through the gaze. Here the violence of representation that shapes the perception of reality becomes itself the subject of the drawings.