

ZURICH

## “ROB PRUITT: THE CHURCH”

Kunsthalle Zürich

December 16, 2017–May 13, 2018

Curated by Daniel Baumann

In Andy Warhol’s *A, A Novel* from 1968, John F. Kennedy dies during church. (Americans heard the word of God and then the news that God did not exist as of 12:30 PM CST.) Warhol made *sixteen* widowed-Jackie portraits. It’s with the same flat promiscuity that post-Pop artist Rob Pruitt celebrates the five-hundredth anniversary of Ulrich Zwingli’s Reformation in Zurich with “The Church,” “an exhibition cum community space cum church.” Cheeky for the idolator responsible for 2011’s *The Andy Monument!* While sermons from theological students don’t promise the heavenly high of a cocaine buffet—or the melodrama of glossolalia—the exhibition serves as a suitably sacrilegious retrospective: twenty “Suicide Paintings,” seven “People Feeders” (“the miracle of the five loaves and two fish), and the thematically relevant installation *The Congregation*, 2010. I like to think the seventy-seven chairs wrapped in silver plumber’s tape pay homage to our society’s *true* believers, tinfoiling their windows against alien attack. Perhaps the Viagra-fountain “holy water” was nixed on account of its inherent Catholicism.

—Kaitlin Phillips

ft: Jorge Pinheiro, *Untitled*, 1968, oil on wood, 15% x 58%". Below: Rob Pruitt, *Suicide Painting (Black v. 1)*, 2015, acrylic on linen, 81 x 81". Right: Lucio Fontana, *Struttura al neon per la IX Triennale di Milano* neon Structure for the 9th Milan Triennial, 1951, crystal cube, neon. Installation view, Palazzo dell'Arte, Milan.

