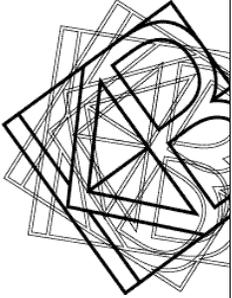


künstlerhaus bethanien gmbh : press release



Berlin, 13th August 2010

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to invite you to the opening of the following exhibitions:

**SIMON LE RUEZ**

**As Poison Leaks Away**

**YOBA VALOMBOLA**

**Exhitain**

In the framework of **ZUSPIEL:**

**Jasper Sebastian Stürup**

selected by Jan-Philipp Frühsorge

**Exhibitions:**

20th August – 5th September 2010

Tue – Sun, 2 – 7 pm

**Joint OPENING:**

**Thursday, 19th August 2010, from 7 pm**

**SIMON LE RUEZ** works across a variety of media that includes sculpture, installation, video and drawing. For the exhibition *As Poison Leaks Away* he will also be showing *Mariannenplatz*, 2010, a new photographic projection work.

Le Ruez's practice celebrates the notion of both an idea and a chosen medium transgressing itself. *L'Entrée des Grottes*, 2010, is a work that encapsulates this aspiration. A monochrome postcard of three men outside the entrance of a cave has been overlaid in part by a deep red acrylic paint.

For the artist this work, as a consequence of its appropriation, has the power to be simultaneously sculptural, filmic and painterly. Other works in the exhibition appear to take their lead from this.

Large-scale floor based paper works operate like spacial drawings with fine lines of thread, glass spheres and foam balls accentuating gestures that allude to both landscape and human forms.

These works play with an aesthetic that again challenges the viewer to consider inherent material qualities and their subversion.

*The Everything of Nothingness*, 2010, is a work that takes this investigation further. A small grey table, right for only two people, plays host to two postcards of seemingly anonymous rooms.

A sheet of glass covers the cards and on top of this, small foam balls appear to plot different points within the rooms. From a work that appears at first to be severely reduced, what is appar-

b.w.

ent on further reflection are the themes and complexities that infiltrate all the work. An opposition is at play and complicit conflicts are always present. As a means to fully implicate the viewer in these unfolding tensions Le Ruez explores these ideas in a way where the potential for movement, progression and change is a pertinent one.

**Simon Le Ruez**, born in Jersey in 1970, currently lives and works in Sheffield, England and Berlin. Recent exhibitions include *To the King*, (with Maud Haya-Baviera), Collège d'Espagne, La Cité Internationale, Paris, France, in 2009; *The Golden Record*, The Collection, Lincoln Museum, Lincoln, UK, in 2009 and *When the Quarry Calls*, Vane, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, in 2007. In 2009 he exhibited in and won *Cube Open* at Cube gallery in Manchester, UK and he will undertake a residency at the gallery later this year.

**Yoba Valombola's** art focuses on the society that he came from. Elements of his work include images, symbols and signs that he takes from a wide range of contexts: personal experience, memories and imagination as well as poetry and music or everyday occurrences.

In African art, it is common practice to work with symbols, signs, letters and numbers, as the artworks themselves generally thematise everyday stories, ideas or social concepts. Valombola's work takes up these themes using such diverse media as screen printing, painting and drawing; it is also oriented on historical works of art from the last two centuries, which provide him with guidance in his personal striving for freedom of action and expression.

"Since the beginning of time, creativity – widely known as art in the western world – has been there to serve and to give manifestation to the spiritual world. Creativity (art) was the only way the human race could express themselves or get into contact with the spiritual world. My creations are influenced by the way I see the world, my experience in life and what I have been through in life to this day. While I use a variety of materials and processes in each art work, my methodology is consistent." (Y. Valombola, 2010).

All the installations, mixed-media works, prints and ritual sculptures shown in "Exhitain" have been produced during Yoba Valombola's stay in Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

**Lidia Perico**, p.artners. berlin-windhoek gGmbH and **Rivka Rinn** (introduction) will speak at the exhibition opening. A musical performance by **Carl Beleites** will take place after this.

**Yoba Valombola** was born in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, in 1975. He lives and works in Namibia. Currently, he holds a fellowship from p.art.ners Berlin-Windhoek gGmbH and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in the context of our International Studio Programme.

**ZUSPIEL / JASPER SEBASTIAN STÜRUP:** As we begin using our new exhibition rooms, Christoph Tannert, CEO and artistic director, has developed a new format that suggests itself for a series of exhibitions, intending to make a direct visual connection between exhibition contributions by guests of the International Studio Programme at the Künstlerhaus and current positions which are not part of the artist-community here. Artists from Berlin and Germany, in the main, are not fellowship-holders at the Künstlerhaus. In a series entitled *ZUSPIEL* ("pass"), exchange relations will be visualised with artists, curators and nominators, who take up and carry on ideas and themes initiated by guest artists of the Künstlerhaus.

The current *ZUSPIEL* artist is **Jasper Sebastian Stürup**. His works – primarily drawings, but also photos, videos and objects – adopt material from the gigantic, omnipresent store of pop culture, film, music and fashion magazines. His fine-lined drawing offer viewers figures and remnants of figures shimmering between presence and absence, between motif and abstraction. His inevitably faceless beings – all of them projection surfaces – often appear to be surrounded and captured by the ornamental patterns of lines that Stürup weaves around them like a spider creating his web. The works presented in *ZUSPIEL* have been selected by **Jan-Philipp Frühsorge**.

**Jasper Sebastian Stürup**, was born in Frederiksberg, Denmark, in 1969. He lives and works in New York.