

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

STEFFEN LENK "VOM FACHMANN FÜR KENNER"

30 October – 23 December 2010
Opening, Friday 29 October 2010, 6 – 8 pm



"Ohne Titel", 2010, oil on canvas, 50x70 cm



"Ohne Titel", 2010, oil on canvas, 30x40cm

We are very pleased to present Steffen Lenk's (*1976, lives and works in Berlin) first solo exhibition in Switzerland. The artist is showing paintings, moving objects and a room filling installation: "Vom Fachmann für Kenner" – the title of the show – mocks guidebooks written by professionals for experts that take themselves too seriously.

Steffen Lenk exhausts the possibilities of oil painting to its full extent, whereby his application of colour varies from being strongly pastose to glazed or pointillist. Apart from canvas he also works on surfaces like prints, milk cartons or cloth. Lenk uses elements of contemporary pop culture in a humorous and profound way, everyday motives from the media, cartoon – and talk show icons as well as historical images that stand out through an almost aggressively extensive range of colour. Geishas covert next to busty revolver ladies on his mostly small formatted paintings, Mickey Mouses with chain saws, Marlboro Cowboys or madly grinning housewives on chequered or camouflage-like backgrounds.

His small objects are made of simple wire constructions which Lenk opaquely covers in oil paint and mounts on wooden pedestals. They could be a drunk Popeye urinating over the edge, a 1950's Pin-Up-Girl sprawling on a bomb or a spinning carousel.

Lenk cleverly confuses our usual way of seeing with surprising combinations of everyday motives and their artistic transformations.

Steffen Lenk was born in Offenburg (Germany) in 1976 and studied at the Academy of Arts in Karlsruhe under Günther Umberg. Beside numerous gallery shows from France to Hamburg he has exhibited in institutions such as Villa Merkel in Esslingen (2008) and Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin (2005).

For picture material and further information please contact the gallery:
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Open Sunday of the "Zürcher Galerien links der Limmat"
Sunday, 31 October 2010, 11 am – 4 pm

Guided tours / Art Lunch
Friday, 26 November 2010, 12.15 pm
Saturday, 27 November 2010, 1 pm