

## KATZ CONTEMPORARY

### STÉPHANE ZAECH *Opera reale*

18 January - 9 March 2013  
Opening: Thursday, 17 January 2013, 6 - 8 pm

KATZ CONTEMPORARY is delighted to announce its second solo exhibition by **Stéphane Zaech** (\*1966, Vevey, lives and works in Montreux and Villeneuve, Switzerland). In addition to opulent, colourful oil paintings the gallery space will feature more toned-down, subtly coloured drawings. Parallel to the exhibition, art&fiction is publishing *The Crossing ZAECH Peintures/Paintings* with an introduction by Giovanni Carmine.

The artist Stéphane Zaech, born and raised in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, masterfully plays with citations from art history: The viewers find themselves reminded of Titian, Diego Velázquez and Pablo Picasso as well as contemporary artists such as George Condo or John Currin. Zaech arranges his artistic borrowings into baroque images, stretches female bodies into multiple perspectives - citing Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)* (1907) - or deconstructs facial features. The virtuoso painter thus opens up a world of whimsical imagery and guides the viewers into an Opera reale, into a perfectly composed contemporary oeuvre, within which they can immerse in the artist's visual world.

The fact that Zaech's works exclusively feature figural and scenic motifs, as well as composition and colouring of his oil paintings in particular, inevitably reveal 17th century Dutch painting as a source of his inspiration. The piece *Steady State*, however, evokes entirely different associations: The guitar depicted in a cubist manner - clearly citing the example of Picasso's silent sculptural guitars made of cardboard (1912-14) - is combined with the depiction of a male body, whose placement within the composition resembles portraits by Diego Velázquez. Zaech succeeds to transfer the image into the present through the figure's modern attire. In the two pieces *Soie* and *La Alba* the reference to today becomes evident as well: Unlike in old painting tradition there are no male artists accessorized with a pallet, instead we see gracious female bodies dressed like dancers.

Zaech manages to translate and adapt the traditional composition of the masters of art history to the contemporary in his drawings as well as his oil paintings. The featured works of the exhibition thus take the viewer on a journey through the history of art. In a chain of associations Zaech forms contradictory visions and bizarre imageries into a new entity. The artist questions well-known viewing patterns and creates his very own pictorial universe - terrifying and magnificent at once. Stéphane Zaech plays with this correlation and invites the viewer into his Opera reale of fascinating and perfectly composed pieces, entirely in the sense of classical painting.

Last year, Stéphane Zaech's (\*1966, Vevey, lives and works in Montreux and Villeneuve, Switzerland) work was featured in several group exhibitions, including *Contemporain...ou bien? La collection d'art BCV* in the Fondation de l'Hermitage in Lausanne, *Review* in the CentrePasquArt, Biel, and ... *it's only Malerei but i like it* at Kunstverein Offenburg Mittelbaden (Germany). Zaech's works are part of several domestic and foreign private and public collections.

Raphaella Arnold

For image requests and further information, please contact the gallery:  
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**PLAY READING**

Rebekka Burckhardt reads poems by Pablo Picasso  
28 February 2013, 7 pm

**GUIDED TOUR / ART LUNCH**

Friday, 8 March, 2013, 12:15 pm

Art Lunch offers you to take part in a guided tour of about 20 minutes through the current exhibition of Stéphane Zaech *Opera reale* and - for all those who bring enough time - to enjoy a meal at a nearby restaurant afterwards (at their own expense).

Please register for the guided tour / Art Lunch under:  
Tel: +41 44 212 22 00 / [info@katzcontemporary.com](mailto:info@katzcontemporary.com)