

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

“Joseph Beuys / Tobias Spichtig“
Opening 27 October 2009, 7 – 9 pm
28 October - 5 December 2009

The duo exhibition “**Joseph Beuys / Tobias Spichtig**” continues the series in which KATZ CONTEMPORARY presents a young artist positioned together with a renowned artist. Drawings by Joseph Beuys (1921–1986) as well as works on paper and sculptures by the artist Tobias Spichtig (*1982, Lucerne, CH, lives in Zurich) constitute the core of this show.

Joseph Beuys (1921–1986) is one of the most celebrated artists that emerged in post-World War II Europe. In his all-artistic productions, drawing constituted a large part of Beuys’s work and demonstrated a personal language ranging from nude studies to the later board diagram. In the 1950’s the artist mainly used a mixed technique of watercolour and soft pencil lines to sketch female nudes (*Sennerin*) or animals. In the 1960’s he concentrated on cognitive science phenomenon (*Audition Special*) as well as on energy and morphological transformations (*Gewitter, Energiefeldmasse*). Later drawings have a more functional character as they are used as studies for the elaboration of works such as Beuys’ famous *Stuhl mit Fett* (*Conzept: Fettstühle*).

Tobias Spichtig (*1982 in Lucerne, lives and works in Zurich) bases his work on classics of modern art history. His interest resides in both works of art and art-theoretical texts, extracting from them conceptual credos which have found expression in art or texts at an earlier time. Tobias Spichtig works with well-known quotes or images taken either from Surrealism, Constructivism or the emblematic reduced language of Minimal Art. Visual art, design, theory and politics function with one another in Spichtig’s work; pictures, sculptures, photographs or texts overlay with each other or are put together in a new way.

Tobias Spichtig meets Joseph Beuys

Today Joseph Beuys’ legacy continues to be a vivid source of inspiration for the following generations of artists. If Tobias Spichtig refers directly to his elder in one of his works (“Portrait Series, Joseph Beuys” 2009), the use of different materials may raise the subject matter for further discussion. This is, at first glance, evident in both aesthetics. While Beuys is known to use natural materials that give a rough and organic structure to his works, Spichtig’s pictures and sculptures convey a refined and cool impression. This sense of distance reflects the intention of the artist to withdraw from the work of art. Joseph Beuys’ work is, however, very tied to his charismatic persona. With his “extended concept of art” Beuys considered each human act as a form of art. On the other hand, Tobias Spichtig’s artistic concept is clearly set apart from everyday activity, existing on its own. His interest resides mainly in quoting works of art and manipulating these quotations. The use of different techniques is also visible in the presentation of Joseph Beuys’ drawings. Where organic processes are fundamental for Joseph Beuys, Tobias Spichtig relies on the most recent technologies.

The exhibition is enriched with a series of impressive photographs by **Leonardo Bezzola** (*1929, CH), which portrays Joseph Beuys at ease with different personalities of the international art scene of the 70's and 80's.

Also for viewing in our **Show Room: "Artists' choice"**: two artists, two selections. Tobias Spichtig presents the artist **Antoni Wojtyra** (*1977, PL, lives in Vancouver, CA), who, in turn, selected works from the collection represented by KATZ CONTEMPORARY.

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EVENTS:

ARTIST TALK

Tobias Spichtig mit Tobia Bezzola

8 November 2009, 2 pm

(Open Sunday 11 am – 4 pm)

GUIDED TOUR / ART LUNCH

Friday 6 November 2009, 12.15 pm

Friday 4 December 2009, 12.15 pm

Saturday 5 December 2009, 1 pm

KUNST ZÜRICH 09

ZKB-Kunstpreis, Solo Show Tobias Spichtig

13 – 16 November 2009