

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

GABI HAMM / MARTINA VON MEYENBURG

28. Oktober - 23. Dezember 2011

Vernissage: Donnerstag, 27. August 2011, 18 - 20 Uhr

KATZ CONTEMPORARY is delighted to show works by Gabi Hamm (*1956 in Stuttgart, Germany) and Martina von Meyenburg (*1975 in Zurich, Switzerland) in a joint exhibition for the first time: Paintings by Gabi Hamm will be presented opposite objects and photography by Martina von Meyenburg.

One part of this double exhibition concentrates on the small formatted oil paintings by **Gabi Hamm**. The paintings are usually based on photographs which depict familiar subjects - portraits, landscapes, domestic scenes. The artist subsequently stages these motives on a monochromically grounded canvas. The works are not developed as series and usually remain untitled - thus every piece contains its own world. Hamm achieves this effect through a suggestive choice of colour and diffuse lighting which cause the subjects to appear in a very particular atmosphere. The portraits and landscapes move into an unidentifiable space which is immanent to the canvas. The chosen detail is staged in such a way that it inevitably stimulates the viewer's imagination: His or her own memories and well-known moods are evoked by Hamm's pieces. The artist thus succeeds in detaching the works from time and lingering in the moment and looking on the inside become the focal points. The figures in Hamm's oil paintings seem to start breathing while at the same time maintaining their almost ghostly quality - they appear to be timeless.

We encounter fragile stagings and precisely picked details in Hamm's work. We listen to her paintings, pause to reminisce and thus experience the pieces' innate silence.

Opposite Hamm's works we find the objects by **Martina von Meyenburg**. With titles such as 'Zwischen ja und nein', 'Einsicht' or 'Merry go round' and in combination with the arranged objects they offer the viewers a starting point for their own, new stories. The artist collects and then skillfully rearranges found objects which are marked by the past - 'Memory-Traced Objects' - in such a way that the individual marks of each piece are mounted onto a neutral level. Based on a concept, von Meyenburg almost treats her photographic works like objects as well - as carriers of traces of the past: The artist collects 'Traces', snap-shots within a story and photographically and numerically keeps them in a file system. She then playfully rearranges the found traces into new ones. Compared to the quirky conglomeration of objects her photographic work feels quiet, romantic and persistent. These works as well as the artist's journeys in search of traces are based on the book 'Swann's Way' from the 'In Search of Lost Time, Volume I' series by Marcel Proust: In it the author describes how objects which are marked by their past 'tell' stories and can be viewed as triggers of memories. Von Meyenburg toys with this reference and cleverly uses it in her works: The viewer is encouraged to follow his or her own 'traces', associations and stories and perceive them more consciously in order to use them as a base to build on.

Gabi Hamm's and Martina von Meyenburg's exhibition guides the viewer through different techniques, he or she will discover the familiar in a new, contemporary light and will be asked to pause and hold still - while at the same time set free their fantasy and personal memories. The combination of the oil paintings, objects and photographs thus plays with time and the idea of an entity in the moment.

Gabi Hamm (*1956 in Stuttgart, Germany) studied at Staatliche Akademie der Bildenen Künste in Stuttgart and the Städelschule in Frankfurt / Main where she still lives and works. Her works have been shown in numerous solo exhibitions in well-known galleries at home as well as abroad (in New York among other cities). Gabi Hamm furthermore participated in several group shows - at the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt, the Kunsthalle Mannheim or the Museum Kunstpalast in Düsseldorf.

Martina von Meyenburg (*1975 in Zurich, Switzerland) studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and lives and works in Zurich today. Her work has most recently been shown in Berlin and London.

Raphaella Arnold

For image material and further information please contact the gallery:
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GUIDED TOUR / ART LUNCH:

Friday, 11 November & Friday 16 December 2011, 12:15 pm

Art Lunch invites you to participate in a 20-minute-tour through the exhibition and - for anyone who brings enough time - to enjoy a nice lunch at a nearby restaurant afterwards (ca. 25.- CHF).

Please sign up to:
Tel: +41 44 212 22 00 / info@katzcontemporary.com