

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

ELISABETH LLACH / LUC ANDRIÉ "SILBERREGEN"

18 January - 17 March 2012
Opening: Tuesday, 17 January 2012, 6 - 8 pm

KATZ CONTEMPORARY is delighted to present two artists' positions: Works by **Elisabeth Llach** (*1970 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland) and **Luc Andrié** (*1954 in Pretoria, South Africa). Both live and work in the French-speaking part of Switzerland and are members of the artists group Makrout Unité.

Red or black long hair, red lips, black high heels - **Elisabeth Llach** has mastered the visual vocabulary of clichéd feminine attributes and dedicates her work solemnly to the feminine - the results are uniquely painted and expressive portraits of women in acrylic on paper. She finds inspiration in fashion magazines, books, advertisements and found images from art history and transfers these visuals to a new context in her works - they get combined, deformed or even dissected. Llach's skillful and subtle play with lighting and staging the depicted figures in a theater-like environment give her works an underlying surreal character: The artist disassembles and ironicizes the world of standardized beautiful illusion, which at times causes a morbid universe to appear as seen in her most recent landscape formatted series "Vagues".

Elisabeth Llach's plate-series is titled "Clara" - in reference to the pianist Clara Haskill. Haskill died when she accidentally fell down a staircase, trying to protect her hands rather than her head. This vulnerability is reflected in the fragility of the ceramics plates and taken further in the presence and language of the stick as a symbol of support, of power and phantasy. In this series, Llach follows the depiction of the woman in an even more radical way: While the feminine figures remind the viewer of cabaret performers, the artist immediately scatters the association through the skull- or mask-like faces and additional physical deformations that swiftly makes them fade away through the bright background of the ceramics plate into an almost mystical surrounding. Her bold usage of phantasy lets Llach succeed in showing images that otherwise would only take place in secrecy - secret attractions, forbidden seductions and erotic temptations. In addition, the focus on the classic game of self-discovery charges the portraits with magic and takes them to a dream world.

Elisabeth Llach (*1970 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland; lives and works in La Russille, Switzerland) studied at École cantonale d'art in Lausanne. Llach's work has been on display at KATZ CONTEMPORARY as part of the group show "Attrait Clandestins" (2010). Her works were also shown in the exhibition "Alles wird gut / Tout ira bien" at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne and the Villa Flora in S-chanf, where Llach was awarded with the Prix du Jury Accrochage in 2009. Additionally, she has taken part in several group shows in both the German and French speaking parts of Switzerland.

Luc Andrié uses photographs as the inspiration of his acrylic works, focusing only on portraits and vanitas-immanent objects when choosing his subjects. His explicit depictions of the figurative contain traces of morbidity, thus leading the viewer from something initially harmless into an abyss and causing the seemingly familiar images to suddenly appear foreign. Andrié skillfully plays with the presence of the human: Through the repetitive depiction of the artist's body he succeeds in stressing the importance of viewing in art. The delicate, often glaze-like way of painting contrasts very strongly with the artist's choice of motive.

In addition, the excessive usage of light and the monochrome colour palette opens up a 'new room' in the works, simultaneously stimulating the viewer's imagination. The often erotically charged portraits almost seem to be caught in the canvas thus are translated to a new language of the feel of the space

and are liberated. The decorative, time-bound objects support this imaginary vision. This way Andrié successfully lifts the initially perceived shadow from the canvas and uncovers previously hidden things.

Luc Andrié (*1954 in Pretoria, South Africa) lives and works in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. His work was on display in solo exhibition in Western Switzerland and Paris as well as in group shows in Maputo, Mozambique - in collaboration with ProHelvetia -, in the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-arts in Lausanne and in the Musée d'art moderne et contemporain (Mamco) in Geneva.

Raphaella Arnold

For image material and further information please contact the gallery:
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SOIRÉE PHILOSOPHIQUE ET JAZZ

7 February 2012, 7 pm

Looking at art with Prof. Dr. Georg Kohler
and saxophonist Sebastian Piekarek
(rsvp - limited seats)

GUIDED TOUR / ART LUNCH

Friday, 3 February & Friday, 2 March 2012, 12:15 pm

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

Please sign up for the Soirée Philosophique et Jazz and/or Guided Tour / Art Lunch to:
Tel: +41 44 212 22 00 / info@katzcontemporary.com

PREVIEW

Leif Trenkler, 24 March - 19 May 2012

Opening: Friday, 24 March 2012, 6 - 8 pm