

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

Lilith

Sandra Vásquez de la Horra, Veronika Holcová, Selina Baumann

October 26 – December 21, 2013

Opening: October 25, 6 - 8 pm

KATZ CONTEMPORARY Gallery is delighted to present its new exhibition *Lilith* featuring works by **Sandra Vásquez de la Horra** (*1967 in Viña del Mar, Chile, lives and works in Berlin), **Veronika Holcová** (*1973 lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic) and **Selina Baumann** (*1988 in Wattwil, Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland/Hamburg, Germany). The show is centered around the fascinating figure of “Lilith”, an Ancient Oriental goddess, who is often depicted as a winged hybrid creature. The bible translates the Hebrew word *lilit* as “night ghost” or “nightjar” whose home is the desert. In subsequent Jewish-Feminist theology Lilith is portrayed as a woman who - contrary to Eve - is resistant to the devil. This way, she not only becomes a symbol of sensuality, passion and sexuality in Feminism, but also the antihero of the biblical persona of Eve who represents the patriarchal tradition.

Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's medium of choice are pencil drawings on paper. In her works she creates room for a personal and at the same time universal cosmos. Her radical, figurative pieces tell stories of fear and visualize dreams, they recount memories of her homeland Chile and unveil topics like religion, sex, myth, or folk tales. The dominance of the female figure is striking: The drawings depict nuns, mothers, saints and seductresses. The motif, drawn in a clear, fluent line, is usually placed in the center of the sheet. The artist models the shapes with graphite in a subtle range of grey and black shades. Another key element in Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's body of work is typography; many of her drawings combine figurative outlines with writing. The words - usually in Spanish, occasionally also in English or German - are spread all over the sheet, grammatical coherence plays a minor role in this process. To finish her drawings, the artist dips them into liquid wax. Through this unusual method the pencil lines seem more profound and leave her works with an elegant patina.

Veronika Holcová's extremely delicately crafted paintings exude a mysterious aura of timeless quietness. Quite often the landscapes are inhabited by a seemingly lonesome female figure whose gaze never meets the viewer's eyes. She seems to be completely immersed in either her own thoughts or in the surrounding landscape. The notion of the “sublime” comes to mind, reminiscent of paintings from the Romantic or Symbolist era. The motives originate from an unconscious as well as a fictitious (dream-)world. Holcová's graphic oeuvre discloses itself as an enormous, almost infinite and extremely multifaceted encyclopedia, picturesque, exotic and mysterious all at once. At times the message is dramatic, at others poetic, it is always, however, extremely expressive. The artist herself says about her drawings: *„They complement my canvasses but have an independent life of their own. They aren't sketches for paintings, but rather soundings of the subconscious, ciphers that map and reveal my deepest private self.“*

For **Selina Baumann** the handling of the raw material and the physical process of emergence are an important component of her ceramic pieces. In the piece "Beine hoch" ("Legs Up"), that is still significantly related to her earlier work, a shell and two nude female lower bodies with unequally wide spread legs are joint in such a way, that a new creature, a crab perhaps, seems to have evolved. Her new works remain raw and unglazed, they move away from the female body to more abstract, organic-looking shapes. The principle of the Klein Bottle, a geometric object that has only one side that is *inside* and *outside* at the same time, can be often found in her works. This principle is reiterated in the work groups of Organs, Oracles and Skeletons. In addition, the artist produces "Universes", intertwined human-like bodies.

Stefanie Schneider

For images and further information please contact the gallery:
Tel: +41 44 212 22 00 / info@katzcontemporary.com

EVENTS

ARTIST TALK EVENT

Friday, November 22, 2013, 7 pm

With Veronika Holcová (artist), Tomáš Sedláček (economist) und Aoife Rosenmeyer (moderator)

PREVIEW

Daniele Buetti / Wolfgang Flad

January 17 – March 22, 2014

Opening: Thursday, January 16, 2014, 6 -8 pm