



künstlerhaus bethanien gmbh : press release

Berlin, den 6th February 2009

Dear Colleagues,  
we are happy to invite you to the opening of the following exhibition:

**ANOUK KRUIHOF**                      **Becoming blue**

20 February – 8 March 2009, Studio 2

Wed – Sun, 2 – 7 pm

**OPENING + BOOK PRESENTATION:**

Thursday, 19 February 2009, from 7 pm

In addition:

**Everything Must Go!**

Special sale of Künstlerhaus Bethanien's publications

Thursday, 19 February 2009, from 7 pm

**ANOUK KRUIHOF's** artistic medium is photography. Her latest photo series *Becoming Blue* was taken between 2006 and 2008 and comprises 21 portraits and three spatial stills. They are presented in different formats and reveal Kruithof's highly exceptional approach to the topic of portrait photography.

First, the artist approached people that she found highly individual and particularly expressive and persuaded them to pose for her portraits. The participants were given no advance information whatsoever about the precise nature of the photo session. The artist's only condition was that all of them should wear an item of blue clothing of their own choice.

During the extended photography sessions, Anouk Kruithof did not usually work behind the camera, but moved about the room or near to the sitters, frequently pressing the shutter by remote control or with the aid of a timer. At the same time, she made repeated minor physical interventions to influence the person being portrayed; her photos therefore capture the subjects' gestures and facial expressions in response to irritation or stress. The production process thus follows intuitive criteria in Kruithof's work, taking place on the borderline between photography and action. Her portraits are created on the basis of continuing interaction between the

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artist and the participants. The moments captured in this way are "moments in-between, which visualise in an optimal way the emotional states that can be seen and sensed in the people of today's world." (Anouk Kruithof)

Traditionally, the colour blue dominant in these works is associated with the sky and the ocean, wide open spaces, infinity and a meditative calm. The actions of those portrayed and the minor 'disturbing factors' – needles, a sharp finger or little clouds of smoke – that can sometimes be seen in the images represent an obvious contradiction to those associations: a stylistic means that the artist deliberately employs in order to visualise different emotional and psychological states during a process of surprise or even confrontation.

In Studio 2, Anouk Kruithof is presenting a special spatial concept including her portraits together with a projection, and a book sculpture with brightly coloured book edges, which already captivates the viewer with the sheer beauty of its coloration.

An **artist's book** will be appearing to accompany the project, including numerous colour illustrations and a text by Christoph Tannert (German/English). It will be presented for the first time at the exhibition opening. The book is published by Revolver Verlag.

**Anouk Kruithof** was born 1981 in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, and now lives and works in Rotterdam and Berlin. She attended the School of Visual Arts St. Joost Academy in Breda. Anouk Kruithof currently holds a fellowship from the Fonds voor beeldende kunsten, vormgeving en bouwkunst, Amsterdam, and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in the context of our International Studio Programme.

### **Everything Must Go! – Special sale of Künstlerhaus Bethanien's publications**

In face of Künstlerhaus Bethanien's removal plans, which are becoming more and more concrete, we intend to reduce the size of our archives. We will therefore be organising a special sale of (almost) all the numerous publications that have emerged from the Künstlerhaus' long years of publishing activity. This will provide an opportunity for you to purchase valuable catalogues and books with contributions by renowned authors at special, extremely reasonable prices.

Special sale **o n l y** on **19 February 2009 (Studio 3, from 7 pm)**.

The press office of Künstlerhaus Bethanien is happy to provide further information and picture material on request.

Best regards,  
Künstlerhaus Bethanien