



Berlin, 15th March 2009

Dear Colleagues,

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

SARA HUGHES

Feedback Runaway

27th March – 12th April 2009

Wed – Sun, 2 – 7 pm, Studio 3

Opening: Thursday, 26th March 2009, 7 pm

SARA HUGHES demonstrates an enduring interest in what we see and how we see it. Her space-consuming installations investigate “the way we visually engage with patterns, codes, numbers” (Hughes). In face of a flood of media ‘explaining’ the world to us and simultaneously regulating it, Hughes is particularly interested in visual structures that convey information and often adopt the form of statistical graphics in the media.

In *Feedback Runaway*, she examines the way that we handle this superfluous mass of statistical information and so transforms the exhibition space into an image of our hectic age and its flood of visual stimuli. The artist takes her starting material – the statistics – from various sources, so that her brightly-coloured pie-charts painted onto canvas are not only visually attractive, but also address and represent content as different as e.g. terror-statistics and a *Cosmopolitan* questionnaire on the “sexiest man alive”.

Bar-charts also painted onto canvas realise actual stock-exchange indexes in a proportionally exact manner; Hughes took these from the economics section of the FAZ on the first of every month over the course of 14 months and recalculated them with the aid of an Excel program. A large pie-chart sculpture made of foam - or rather its individual ‘pieces’ - invites visitors to take a seat and examine the bar-charts made from coloured adhesive vinyl film that have been fixed onto the ceiling: here they vie with line diagrams that appear to positively hurl graphic

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representations of the economic crisis into space with their wild zigzag motion across the walls and floor.

The numerous visual images of sometimes important and sometimes trivial statistical content, removed from their original contexts and arbitrarily combined, compete for the viewer's attention on equal terms in the exhibition. Sarah Hughes' installation becomes a place where meaning is not only created, but also gets lost.

However, *Feedback Runaway* is also about the messages and signals that are created through the interaction of form and colour, and so Sarah Hughes' work conveys reminders of the Bauhaus School as well, of Kandinsky or paintings by Josef Albers, who – like Sara Hughes – always made a meticulous note of their 'source' on the back of his square paintings.

SARAH HUGHES was born in Vancouver, Canada in 1971; she lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand. Hughes graduated from the Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland (BFA, MFA) and is currently a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien on a one-year fellowship from Creative New Zealand.

Exhibitions incl.: *United We Fall*, Christchurch City Art Gallery; *Prospect: New Art – New Zealand*, Wellington City Art Gallery; *Dirty Pixels*, Artspace, Auckland; *Snake Oil*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland; *Cutting edges*, Gow Langsford Gallery, Sydney.

We are grateful to ORAFOL Europe GmbH for its generous support of the exhibition *Feedback Runaway*.

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

Best regards,

Künstlerhaus Bethanien