



künstlerhaus bethanien gmbh : press release

Berlin, 17th April 2009

Dear Colleagues,

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

**SARAH RYAN**  
**the clearing**

2nd – 17th May 2009

Wed – Sun, 2 – 7 pm, Studio 3  
(closed on 1st May)

**Opening: Thursday, 30th April 2009, from 7 pm**  
together with the exhibition by **Cynthia Girard**

**SARAH RYAN** has been following up her keen interest in lenticular techniques for some time now, and she is one of few artists working with digital lenticular photography. The pictures generated in this way convey the optical effect of three-dimensionality and/or a flowing motion within the image. Lenticular images, which are also known as “flip pictures”, are found most frequently in small formats as 3D-postcards or on souvenirs or gift articles. In the extended field of artistic applications, the digital lenticular technique now facilitates just as many diverse possibilities.

Sarah Ryan employs this technique and specifically its quality of making things seem slightly ‘non-static’, as if in fluid motion, in order to inspire viewers to see in different ways with her works, which actually capture rather unspectacular motifs. Ryan keeps the images ‘at a distance’ to the viewer by making their effect simultaneously alien and yet familiar; in this way, she creates ambiguous situations that permit a variety of interpretations.

The exhibition *the clearing* shows a series of new works that were produced during Sarah Ryan’s stay in Berlin. In these new photographs, Ryan has created reserved, only hesitantly

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unfolding works, which may serve as a quiet refuge for meanings or emotions. The intention is to deliberately slow down the process of viewing, deciphering, and the discovery of details. The dichotomy of emotions and thought, which the artist believes that the lenticular medium reflects excellently with its "lack of clarity" and striving for depth, is also mirrored in the title that Ryan has chosen for the exhibition: on the one hand, the clearing refers to a physical clearing in the sense of a thinning out amidst (the darkness) of a forest – a mysterious place in which anything could occur – and on the other hand, it also signifies the clearance of an empty physic space or the process of mental "clearing".

**SARAH RYAN** – born in Canberra, Australia, in 1975 – lives and works in Toowoomba, Queensland. She studied art at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane and the Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania, Hobart (BFA and PhD).

Exhibitions include: *like never before*, Gitte Weise Galerie, Berlin (2007); *Perfect for any Occasion: Photography Today*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne (2007); *one plus one*, Foyer Gallery, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Australia (2008, with Ingo Gerken); *decor*, Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Glen Eira, Australia (2008).

Sarah Ryan is currently a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien on a fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts, Sydney.

We are grateful to the company **Alstercolor, Hamburg**, for its generous support of this exhibition project.

Sarah Ryan will be showing another exhibition with the same title in the **Gitte Weise Galerie**, Berlin (24.04. – 13.06.2009).

A **catalogue** is appearing for this exhibition, including a text by Dominic Eichler (Publisher: The Green Box, Kunsteditionen, ISBN 978-3-941644-11-3).

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

Best regards,  
Künstlerhaus Bethanien