



künstlerhaus bethanien gmbh : pressemitteilung

Berlin, 4th January 2008

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to invite you to the following exhibitions and events:

MOONJOO LEE

Urban Detritus

18th January – 3rd February 2008

Studio 2

NICO DOCKX & DOUGLAS PARK

Untitled

18th January – 3rd February 2008

Studio 3

NICO DOCKX & HELENA SIDIROPOULOS

Untitled

17th January 2008

Studio 240

RALF ZIERVOGEL

Equilibrist

17th January 2008

Studio 1

Curator: Peter Lang, Berlin

Wed – Sun, 2 – 7 pm

JOINT OPENING

+ OPEN STUDIOS

+ DJ CHRISTOPH TANNERT

Thursday, 17th January 2008, from 7 pm

MONJOO LEE works with painting and collage techniques. As early as 1998, she began documenting areas of urban renewal, the so-called "redevelopment sites" omnipresent in her home city Seoul and its satellite towns, in photographs and painting. She continued this practice later in the United States, where she discovered a large number of similar areas. Since then, documentation of the transitory aspect of urban substance, its constant state of upheaval, has been a key topic of her creative work, in addition to the related social consequences of this kind of large-scale "redevelopment", which can always mean exclusion and the loss of values and their homes for a certain group of people.

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Moonjoo Lee's large-format works, which document the continuing cycle of urban expansion, construction, decay, demolition and reconstruction from the artist's perspective, always demand site-specific research, which Lee carries out over a long period. Her serial formats – most of them diptychs and triptychs – reveal an integrated vision comprising panorama perspectives of specific sites in which past, present and future reflect one another. Lee brings together several of these places in the form of painterly collages.

In Berlin, Moonjoo Lee has also tracked down parts of the urban landscape in a state of upheaval – for example the site around the "O2-Arena" close to Warschauer Straße, and the Palace of the Republic, currently being demolished – and has documented them photographically over a longer period of time. In their turn, the photos - as "shadows of reality" (Lee) - function as patterns for large-format black and white copies or silkscreen prints, which Lee arranges on the canvas in a patchwork-like fashion and finally works over or supplements using layers of brushed paint.

By juxtaposing views of house ruins, construction debris and abandoned housing estates on canvas, Moonjoo Lee not only intends to show the concrete, everyday space of our direct environment, she also aims primarily to stimulate a metaphorical understanding of this space as one of values and possibilities.

MOONJOO LEE, born in South Korea in 1972, lives and works in Seoul. She studied painting at Seoul National University (MFA1999) and the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan/USA (MFA2003). At present she holds a fellowship from the Arts Council Korea and is participating for twelve months in the International Studio Programme of Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

NICO DOCKX often responds with his works to found texts, images or architectonic structures. In many cases, he works together with other artists, musicians or even scientists, since his aesthetic practice develops in conjunction with and relation to others.

Nico Dockx' work is inspired by a fundamental interest in structural processes and archives, data, memories and information, as well as their distribution and organisation. His multimedia works - installations, sound settings, published texts and videos - examine the interrelations of perception and memory and create space for many individual interpretations.

Dockx realised his current project Untitled in Studio 3 together with the London artist and writer DOUGLAS PARK (*1972). It is part of a series investigating institutional structures and identities that Dockx and Park began as early as 2003. A series of slides with images and texts documents an exhibition in the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna (curator: Andrea Viliani), which was never actually shown to the public. It concerns works and performances that have left traces behind in the now empty building of the Galleria d'Arte Moderna after the inauguration of a new art museum – they form a rather eerie 'group exhibition' and reflect on past, present and potential future ideas of what constitutes an art museum.

As his contribution to the Open Studios, in his studio (Studio 240) Nico Dockx will also be presenting a poster especially conceived together with the artist HELENA SIDIROPOULOS (*1979 in Antwerp), which visitors may take away free of charge – a reflection on the artist's sense of always giving or presenting something through an artwork. Showing a reproduced image from each of the artist's personal archives, the poster is an illustration of two personal standpoints within a specific time-frame rather than a 'work of art'.

Born in Ekeren, Belgium in 1974, NICO DOCKX lives and works in Antwerp. He studied Media Art and Fine Art in Antwerp, Boston, Banff (Canada), Bennington (USA) and Nantes (France) and has already exhibited frequently in an international context. Nico Dockx was

awarded a DAAD grant in 2005 and the ars viva prize for sound art in 2007.

At present he holds a fellowship from the government of Flanders, Brussels, and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien within the context of our International Studio Programme.

RALF ZIERVOGEL (*1975) "has been known previously for his sharply detailed, imploding and exploding apocalyptic drawings in outsized and mini formats. The spatial installation *Equilibrist* is inserted into the given space - the former chapel of Bethanien Hospital and now Studio 1 of the Künstlerhaus - in a strict, minimalist way. An almost corporeal *UD* model construction (2007, 384 x 150cm, mixed media), the striking apparatus under grey tarpaulin, and a blind spot, deep black and matt - pure black ivory -, are located in the apse. The room reflects an arena as object space. There is distance to everything. Randomly, the tent interior rushes outwards to create plastic forms. Bud Spencer and Achilles seem to be standing on a tortoise. The black hole in the apse represents the drawing together of interior space, the opposite of the tent. The question of outside and inside, of the causal agent, of the empty space of a higher being is posed without pathos." (Peter Lang)

RALF ZIERVOGEL has received fellowships from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, the Karl Schmidt Rottluff Foundation, and in 2008 from the Berlin Senate for New York (info: www.ralfziervogel.de) *Equilibrist* is curated by Peter Lang, Berlin and being realised with kind support from the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Senate Offices – Cultural Affairs.

OPEN STUDIOS

In 2008, as always at the beginning of a new year, at Künstlerhaus Bethanien we would like to offer our visitors a renewed opportunity to take a look at work and current projects by the artists of the International Studio Programme. The following artists will therefore be opening their studios to the public from 7 pm on 17th January 2008, and look forward to your visit: Can Altay (Turkey), Daniel Barroca (Portugal), Catherine Bolduc (Canada), Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson (Iceland), Markus Degerman (Sweden), Nico Dockx (Belgium), Hadassah Emmerich (Netherlands), Haris Epaminonda (Cyprus), Nathalie Latham (Australia), Moonjoo Lee (Republic of Korea), An Te Liu (Canada), Søren Lose (Denmark), Charlotte Schleiffert (Netherlands), Martin Skauen (Norway), Sophia Tabatadze (Georgia), Luca Trevisani (Italy) and Ming Wong (Singapore).

Best Regards
Künstlerhaus Bethanien