

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press Release – October 2012 HENRIK EIBEN & HOLGER NIEHAUS

Schwarz Contemporary is delighted to announce its first exhibition of German artists Henrik Eiben and Holger Niehaus, on view until December 1st, 2012.

Henrik Eiben meticulously researches the visual effects of materials and their possible combinations. With his pieces, he explores the three dimensions by creating an inner- and outer- dialogue: how the parts of the work are related to one another, and how the piece dialogues with the surrounding space.

Voyager (2012) rips through the green wall, it is a puzzle of surfaces built with plaster, light blue cloth and white paint. As its evocative title suggests, it resembles an iceberg sailing the oceans or a fantastic creature crossing outer space.

Snatch (2012) is another suggestive title that induces us to focus on a little leather flap that joins two panels covered with fabric and lacquer. Unfastening the leap would most probably cause the two panels to fall apart.

Also *Reckoner* from 2012 – a work made of pieces of fish bone cloth – bears Eiben's very particular sense of humour: one of the pockets carries a pink leather handkerchief. Is this sewed to the suit fabric or will the collector loose it at a certain point as it is placed upside down?

The three recent photographs by Holger Niehaus on view mark a strong turning in the artist's vocabulary. This new body of work heads to an exciting direction of abstract expression. When we take a closer look at Niehaus' dancing motives, we find out that the artist used coloured paper sheet to create almost sculptural images.

The work *A41* might recall a turquoise minimalist sculpture but its vertical leap and airy quality might also evoke a bird tiptoeing through the image. The flamboyant work *A45*, again, is abstract and geometric at first glance and yet its texture and outlines resemble a warm fire. The two photographs are installed on the same wall so that the figures seem to dance together in the empty space, weightless, one made of air and the other of fire. The background is a pure white endless vacuity, where the two dancers can move free from the constraints of gravity.

The third photograph exhibited, *A49*, is a black and white geometric form, it inevitably recalls the Suprematist square. But the quality that captivates the viewer is instead the contrast between fading and highly defined borders and the creation of a new shape and space, out of the unrecognizable original object. Niehaus plays not only with colour and shapes but with sharpness, too - some lines are blurry and some others are perfectly on focus, creating magical dichotomies in the images.

Text: Olga Boiocchi

Henrik Eiben (*1975 in Tokyo) studied at AKI in Enschede and the Maryland Institute College of Arts. He then graduated in 2004 from the Academy of Arts in Karlsruhe. Henrik Eiben lives and works in Hamburg.

Holger Niehaus, born 1975 in Nordhorn (Germany), currently lives and works in Berlin. Niehaus graduated in 2002 from AKI (Academie voor beeldende Kunst en Vormgeving) in Enschede.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the gallery:
mail@schwarz-contemporary.com

*** Please note ***

Holger Niehaus' and Henrik Eiben's work will be presented by Galerie Diane Kruse at the art fair in Turin from November 8 - 11, 2012.

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY will be at ARTISSIMA showing recent work by Hannah Gieseler and Ulrich Hakel.