Press Release – September 2011

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY is pleased to present an international group show of works produced specifically for this exhibition by four artists: GL BRIERLEY, PETER LINDE BUSK, DIETER DETZNER and LEONARDO DREW.

The visceral force of the oil paintings on wood by GL Brierley (born in 1962 in Glossop, Derbyshire) may at first seem rather repulsive to the viewer - on a second glance however, an almost irresistable sense of attraction develops.
Their core visual motifs, often Arcimboldo-like accumulations of more or less clearly recognizable body-parts, are presented like sculptures on pedestals displayed in non-identifiable spaces.
In some parts reminiscent of Francis Bacons, the fleshliness and sexuality of the motifs perseveres through application of strongly pastose paint, thus revealing an almost physical effect of the colours. In her pictorial work GL Brierley intentionally refers to both Julia Kristeva's post-structural thoughts on simultaneous seduction and rejection and to the Dutch still life of the 17th century.

Berlin-based artist Dieter Detzner (born in 1970) focuses on elemental geometric forms, generating a powerful juxtaposition of acrylic glass and other elements strongly contrasting with it. He has developed soot black carbon images arranged in complex cases. Whereas acrylic covers are often installed retroactively by museums in order to protect paintings, with Detzner they form an integral part of the work emphasizing the tridimensionality of the pieces through their luminescent edges and the reflections in the carbon black drawings behind. The effect is a shift in space between image, relief and sculpture. A tension is created through the contrast between the crystalline, constructed forms of the acrylic glass and the carbon black drawings produced by the random movements of a pendulum. Similarly, in another work the foundation block with a gap generating its subtle shadow gains central significance, echoing classics of modernity like Constantin Brancusi. The distinction between foundation, work and protective cover has been eliminated.

After studies in London, New York and Düsseldorf, Danish artist Peter Linde Busk (born in 1973) now lives and works in Berlin.
The narrative titles of his works - for example *I can see by your coat, my friend, that you're from the other side* – right away draw the beholder into Busk's idiosyncratic, fantastical pictorial world. We encounter kings, queens, knights, pirates and similar figures, emerging from a mystical dark space of colour coats.
The individual character of his works is enhanced through the technique applied.

The large-sized collage *I've got no expectations to pass through here again* made from countless paper straps, small drawings, threads and much more, connects to one large theme: a yellowish man, supported by a cane maybe, in front of a subtly arranged, non-graphic backdrop. Busk's raw art, in parts reminiscent of Art Brut, is by no means naïve but makes allusions, rather than references, to role models found in literature.

US artist Leonardo Drew (born in 1961 in Tallahassee, Florida) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. The two pieces created for this exhibition are typical for his work, both in terms of formal composition and their material aesthetics. Contrasting black and white, wood and fabric, hard and soft textures to achieve representation of opposites. The extreme verticality of the black wooden sculpture evokes totem poles and at the same time suggests a correlation with Louise Nevelson's work. These two points of reference are indeed quite crucial for Drew's art: post-war modernity in the United States and pre-modern art, not created for the museum. The appearance of minimalism of the works shall not distract from their complexity, which may not manifest itself at the first sight.

The opening will take place on Thursday, September 8, 2011, 6 to 8 pm.

For further information or any enquiries please contact the gallery via mail@schwarz-contemporary.com