

Matthew Brannon – Reservations

An Exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Stiftung

June 20 – July 25, 2010

Matthew Brannon's artworks appear modest at first sight. His elegant pieces and paper prints display hand drawings and illustrations accompanied by his own condensed and concise texts. As someone highly knowledgeable of Sigmund Freud, which is never ostensibly revealed, however, Brannon operates according to the motto: What we see is never what we mean and want; it always remains inaccessible.

Images of lobsters, crabs, shrimps, sushi, high heeled shoes, stockings, wind instruments, pencils, champagne, sake, and cigarettes hover over accounts of interviews and cocktail party chats. His art deals with success and failure, trust and agreements, all taking place in view of a certain mistrust towards pictures as illustration and in awareness of the incapacity of texts to explain what art is all about.

These are the contents of Brannon's works and installations. The objects are visual wordplays, and the prints pictorial abbreviations of his ideas. Brannon's art is in search of, as he calls it, "productive frustration." It is engaged in examining the borders between visuality and language, and that of the verbal moment lying between both levels of articulation.

Prior to Brannon's first solo show in Europe, on view at the Ursula Blickle Stiftung, there was a series of art events titled "This Dinner is a Group Show" involving numerous other artists. It was dedicated to the theme of dining, the tablecloth, napkins, wine labels, and "table music." Brannon tied them into an artistic concept in terms of both design and content. A dinner was given in the office of the New York-based magazine Cabinet, with contributions by the confectioner Sebastian Brecht, the grandson of famous Bertolt Brecht, the artists Paul Chan, Spencer Finch and Joan Sallas, and other participants. A second "dinner" at Schloss Assenheim near Frankfurt am Main saw fireworks by Sandra Kranich, gastronomic contributions by artists Carsten Höller and Tobias Rehberger, as well as artistic interventions by Thomas Bayrle, Rüdiger Carl, Olafur Eliasson, William Forsythe, Svetlana Heger, and Michele Elzay. Individual elements of these events will be on view in the main exhibition.

Brannon's show at the Ursula Blickle Stiftung, titled "Reservations," is the most comprehensive one in Germany so far. A large selection of graphic prints, many with obvious gastronomic references, will be displayed along with a series of new works created specifically for this venue. Brannon is highly interested in forms of presentation and exhibition design. Hence, the exhibition architecture will be a pivotal component of the overall concept and, in conjunction with the design of the invitation card and the banner, form a Gesamtkunstwerk.

Matthew Brannon was born in St. Maries, Idaho, in 1971 and grew up in Los Angeles's death rock and punk scene. Brannon studied fine arts, art theory and psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles and at Columbia University in New York. In the exhibition, "Dark Spring," curated by Nicolaus Schafhausen and Liam Gillick, his work was presented at the Ursula Blickle Stiftung for the first time in 2002. He lives and works in New York.

Exhibition Venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation

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Press Information

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Press Images

Images will be made available on the foundation's website: www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Catalogue

A catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition

Preview

Please reserve by telephone or fax:
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

Exhibition Dates

June 20 – July 25, 2010

Opening Event

Saturday, June 19, 2010, 7 p.m.

Welcome: Ursula Blickle
Introduction: Prof. Dr. Daniel Birnbaum

Curator

Prof. Dr. Daniel Birnbaum
(Director of the Städelschule Frankfurt)

Opening Hours

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.
and by appointment

Closing Event

July 25, 2010, 4 p.m.

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber

We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!