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zeigt | presents:

Ulrike Müller | K8 Hardy

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FeminismFormalism | FeminismusFormalismus
23 Sept > 30 Oct 2010

in cooperation w/ Galerie Sonja Junkers
Opening 22 September 2010, 19 Uhr
9 Uhr Performance

Artist Talk: 24 September 2010, 6 Uhr
K8 Hardy & Ulrike Mueller sprechen mit Uli Aigner,
Galerie Sonja Junkers

In September 2010, Munich-based galleries Galerie Sonja Junkers and Steinle Contemporary cooperate to present the artists Ulrike Mueller and K8 Hardy. Mueller and Hardy were members of LTR (Lesbians To The Rescue / Lets Take The Role / Listen Translate Translate Record / Lacan Tends To Repeat), a queer-feminist collective producing an independent art journal, performances, events, screenings and collaborations, founded 2001 in New York.

Ulrike Mueller is an Austrian-born artist currently living and working in New York. She participated in the Whitney Independent Study Program (2003) and the P.S.1 International Studio Program (2004) and is on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Art's MFA in Visual Arts Program. Her work has been included in numerous exhibitions including *Ecstatic Resistance, X Initiative*, New York (2009-10); *Sonic Episodes: An Evening of Audio Works*, Dia Art Foundation at the Hispanic Society, New York (2009); *Empfindung. Oder in der Nähe der Fehler liegen die Wirkungen*, Augarten Contemporary, Wien (2009); and *Mothers of Invention, Where is Performance coming from*, MUMOK, Wien (2003); Mueller's practice also includes collaborative activist projects like the mentioned queer feminist magazine LTR.

Over the last decade, Mueller has formed a multi-faceted body of work based on an ongoing critical engagement with art making. She maintains a rigorous drawing and painting practice centered on abstraction, suggestion, and a passionate ambivalence that is further augmented in text-based works and moving images. Her psychologically intense and sexually charged live performances, audio installations and videos proposition viewers, emphasizing and exploring the 'performative' spaces we share. Mueller's work offers a celebratory queer-feminist perspective on painting, thus examining one of Western art history's most traditional mediums in the present tense.

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„My imagery is both, abstract and not, it sets out to engage viewers in a play with associations: abstract forms are suggestively flirting with representational logic. In this perceptual process, the social and the individual are inseparable: individual, even intimate experience is entwined with culturally shared ideas. I am interested in the notion of queering as an activity that makes familiar things strange and potentially embarrassing, yet open to novel excitements and pleasures.“ (Ulrike Mueller, 2010)

Most recently, in a new series of paintings produced at Artpace, San Antonio (TX), Mueller introduced the traditional technique of vitreous enamel on metal to her work. This will be further explored in a group of paintings for the exhibition at Steinle Contemporary. In addition, Mueller will produce a new special edition of miniature wearable paintings, opening yet another avenue for thought about bodies, desire, and those aspects of art objects, which cannot be contained by their status as commodities.

K8 Hardy, born 1977 in Fort Worth, Texas, was a Fellow in the Whitney Independent Study Program in 2003. In her manysided work, K8 Hardy merges film, photography, music, performance, installation, fashion and writing. In 2009 Hardy had a solo exhibition *To all the G%#&\$ I've Loved Before* at Reena Spaulings Fine Art in New York. Together with artist Wynne Greenwood, K8 Hardy produced *New Report*, a series of media performances and videos, shown at Tate Modern in 2007. The two artists explore the boundaries between art and politics, protest and media, striving to dismantle dominant media images. In 2008, K8 Hardy took part in the Serpentine Gallery *Manifesto Marathon*, London, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist. In 2010, she participated in *Greater New York*, curated by Klaus Biesenbach.

K8 Hardy explores the complicated arguments of gender and feminist politics. By restaging gender as a fluid and plural condition, she makes clear the level of complexity in defining identity. Playing with the cultural codes of both hetero and queer cultures, she refuses to settle into any agreed upon or final condition. Instead, she opts for multiplicity of identities.

In her exhibition at Galerie Sonja Junkers, K8 Hardy will show new work from *Position Series*. The photographs bear the characteristics of a snapshot. Besides straight photography, the artist is using techniques such as photogram and collage. In *Position Series*, K8 Hardy portrays herself in an ongoing series of posed or proposed selves. She performs various social and cultural archetypes, from camp to gay cruising clichés. K8 Hardy questions, how the human gaze positions people into convenient categories.

Galerie Sonja Junkers

Amalienstr. 45

80799 Munich

Germany

Open Wed - Fri 12am - 6pm, Sat 12am - 4pm & Appointments

Tel +49 89 2429 3724

www.sonjajunkers.com