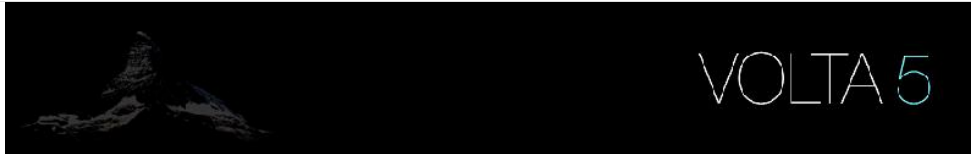


Von: VOLTA Press Office <press@voltashow.com>
Betreff: VOLTA Artist Projects and Talks Program
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For immediate release
June 3rd, 2009

VOLTA Artist Projects and Talks Program

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VOLTA5 announces both a complementary section to the general fair program, showcasing artworks that could not be shown on a regular booth, due to their size, format or special needs and a daily series of talks with artists and curators.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 1 - MICHAEL SALTER presents *RobotBox*

Michael Salter is fascinated, disgusted and hypnotized by the influx of images produced by current consumer society. His exploration of consumerism and its consequent litter has led Salter to create his Styrobots, sculptures made of protective polystyrene packing elements, items made instantly useless once the box is opened. These are puzzled together - with neither alterations nor cuttings - resulting in huge installations or miniature sculptures. At first the object appears to be a friendly machine but on closer inspection, an alarming reality is addressed: the waste of discarded material and the failure of technology to address this issue. Further exploring the topic of consumerism, Salter adopts its marketing strategies and visual mechanisms and creates for VOLTA5 in Basel a larger-than-life toy box that functions both as packaging material and promotional tool for his celebrated *Giant Styrobot*. Exhibited in the art fair context, the *RobotBox* brightly comments on and benefits from the blurred line between art and commerce.

Michael Salter is based in Boston, USA. He is represented by think.21 Gallery, Brussels, Booth J3.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 2 - YARISAL & KUBLITZ present *Forever looks so good right now*

Yarisaal & Kublitz's mechanical sculpture makes use of 300 bulbs to spell its title, *Forever looks so good right now*. The O's of the phrase are replaced with multi-colored Wheel-of-Fortunes, emitting an unsettling tick-tick-ticking in an endless rotation. Instead of stopping to indicate a fate or fortune, these wheels continue their spinning; symbolic of an uncertainty at the core of human experience, and expressing the futility of humanity's ongoing attempts to relate to life as something concrete and not fluid. The work's playful ambiguity confronts the viewer with his own mortality.

Yarisaal & Kublitz are based in Berlin (Germany). They are represented by Galerie Bertrand & Gruner, Geneva, Booth E6

VOLTA Artist Project No. 3 - MORTEN VISKUM presents *Monogram VII*

The Norwegian artist Morten Viskum has created the sculpture on display as the seventh piece in his ongoing *Monogram* series. *Monogram VII* presents a stuffed zebra, its graphic black and white stripes in stark dramatic contrast to the support base's colorful marks. Indeed, all the animals in Viskum's *Monogram* series are placed on a board painted with rhythmical and neatly executed strokes, all of which are applied with a disembodied human hand. The series is an homage to Robert Rauschenberg's iconic sculpture *Monogram*, one of the most influential works of the 20th century.

Morten Viskum is based in Vestoffen (Norway). He is represented by FAS, London, Booth C4.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 4 - GHOST OF A DREAM presents the new works *Goodbye; Maybe next Time; Will it Happen It Will; and Study for the Dream Home*

For this year's edition, VOLTA will be showcasing works by Ghost of a Dream (aka artists Adam Eckstrom and Lauren Was), following VOLTA's aim to give something back to the local community by featuring a Basel-based unrepresented artist. Ghost of a Dream will present four new pieces at VOLTA. These pieces, applied to the wall, are made of scratched and used lottery tickets, as part of Ghost of a Dream's current project about the promises of wealth that people fantasize of when investing in the lottery system. The scratch tickets represent real dreams that mostly disappear just as quickly as they come. Three of the works are wistful text pieces scattered around the hall while the final piece is a portion of the large-scale work-in-progress of a life-size living room: *Study for the Dream Home* is on view in the Absinthe Bar.

Ghost of a Dream is currently on an artist-in-residence program in Basel, funded by a grant from the International Exchange and Studio Program Basel, Christoph Merian Foundation and Galapagos Art Space.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 5 - STEVE LOCKE presents *Untitled*

The sculpture *Untitled*, 2009, is a neon sign flashing two messages at 4 second intervals; this piece needs surrounding darkness to achieve its strong effect. Using a structure common to houses of worship and places of furtive sexual contact, the work links different modes of attaining rapture, in the afterlife and in the immediate sensual moment. In addition, the layering, fonts, colors and placement interrogate the way religious messages contain a clear exclusionary message. The promise of salvation for the chosen is the threat of annihilation for the ones left behind.

Steve Locke is based in Boston (USA). He is represented by RHYS/MENDES, L.A./Belo Horizonte, Booth C3.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 6 - THE ROYAL ART LODGE presents Garbage Day

The Royal Art Lodge, created in 1996 by six undergraduates at the University of Manitoba, Canada and, led by Marcel Dzama, turned heads early for producing playfully eccentric collaborative drawings, where one artist began a drawing and then passed the work along to another, and so on. Completed drawings were date stamped, and then in a process of self-critique, were archived in a series of suitcases ranging in importance from 'best drawings' to 'those to be discarded'. In *Garbage Day*, The Royal Art Lodge continues this approach presenting a series of over 200 modest panels that form an epic frieze of painting, drawing and collage. Panels are characterized by bright colors, simple compositions and the use of a candid child-like line. Within the overall collection, smaller separate stories emerge and populate the walls like key chapters or themes. *Garbage Day* was commissioned by the Bluecoat for the Liverpool Biennial 2008.

The Royal Art Lodge is represented by Pippy Houldsworth, London, Booth F8.

VOLTA Artist Project No. 7 - T.A.B.S. (Temporary Art Beauty Services)

T.A.B.S. is a mobile theatre of beauty-education-as-fine-art through the administration of manicures, temporary tattoo art and custom-written automatic poetry based on imagery culled from their portable library of art history books. Using a suggested donation and/or barter payment structure, T.A.B.S. explores alternative economic models for services typically administered in a commercial sphere, re-inventing both the art and beauty experience by creating unexpected works through the mobile beauty salon. T.A.B.S. will be on site daily, located next to the Talks Lounge, for art and beauty consultation.

T.A.B.S. is presented by Cassie Thornton and Maya Erdelyi-Perez. They are based in Brooklyn (USA).

VOLTA Artist Project No. 8 - JOHANNES GEES presents Final Fantasy

Final Fantasy was originally a 1978 Citroën Dyane that was stripped and remodeled by its former proprietor, a Roma family from Belgrade. It was used as a regular passenger and transportation vehicle until April 2008, when Johannes Gees purchased it and shipped it to Switzerland, where he has staged the car on pristine streets surrounded by luxury car models common to daily life in wealthy Swiss cities. The object refers to both the humble beginning of the automobile and also an apocalyptic "Mad Max" future, where gasoline is scarce and cars are retooled, as well as questioning our wealthy societies in which whole communities are still left to scavenge as a way of life.

Johannes Gees, an artist whose installations and events in the public sphere have caused some controversy over the last few years, is now showing his latest work in several cities all over Switzerland. At VOLTA, the *objet trouvé* *Final Fantasy* finds its way back from the museum space into the streets - hitting the heart of Basel city at the Markthalle.

Johannes Gees is based in Zürich (Switzerland).

Complementary Projects and Talks

As ever, a recurring and well-loved VOLTA participant is [Imperfect Articles](#), the Chicago-based company who, for the last five years, has supported emerging artists by creating limited edition T-shirts with their original artwork, exposing the artist to a wider audience. Merging a clothing brand and site-less gallery, Imperfect Articles takes an experimental approach to curatorial practice with limited-edition, hand-dyed and hand screen-printed T-shirts. Each shirt is an original, one-of-a-kind, numbered edition; shirts are extremely small pressings of 30, 40 or 50 shirts.

The VOLTA5 Open Forum will, meanwhile, be taking place in the lounge space at the back of the fair.

Monday, June 8th , 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

To Be With Art Is All We Ask: Curators and Curating, Past, Present and Future.

Participants: Adam Budak (Curator, Kunsthhaus Graz and co-curator of Manifesta 7), Christoph Doswald (Art Critic and Curator), Jasper Sharp (Curator and Writer, Vienna), Stephanie Smith (Curator, SMART Museum).

The title of this panel is taken from a 1970 volume by Gilbert & George and also from the introduction to Hans Ulrich Obrist's recent book, *A Brief History of Curating*. In Obrist's book, the quote is part of an answer the late Anne d'Harnoncourt gives to put forward a rationale for young curators to enter the field - a field that is, despite today's proliferation of curatorial studies programs, remarkably open ended, fluid with regard to boundaries and, to paraphrase Obrist, still largely without a defined *raison d'être*.

What is curating? How do curators arrive at their own practice? What can we expect from curators and curating at the dawn of a new art market and the unveiling of the 53rd Venice Biennial?

Wednesday, June 10th, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Video Killed the Radio Star: Are Art Fairs and Biennials Killing Galleries?

Participants: David Risley (David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen), Dave Hoyland (Seventeen Gallery, London), Sarah Douglas (artinfo.com), Amanda Coulson (VOLTA), Karl Kostyal (Collector, London), Ceri Hand (Ceri Hand Gallery, ex-Director of Exhibitions FACT, Liverpool)

Biennials and art fairs have significantly globalized the art world, making it possible for contemporary art to travel to previously unknown points and for the art market to expand massively.

But have these developments possibly mortgaged the collector/dealer relationship? Can galleries and artists survive these days without biennials and fairs? If collectors and museums rely principally on mega events to scout talent, can they really establish profound relationships with art and artists? Have biennials and art fairs significantly cut into gallery foot traffic? How can art fairs and biennials respond to these developments?

Thursday, June 11th, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Paintworks: A Conversation About Contemporary Painting and Book Signing

Participants: Kevin Power (Critic, Curator, Chair American Literature Program, Universidad de

Alicante), Barry Schwabsky (Poet and Critic, The Nation, Artforum) and Yishai Jusidman (painter, ex-critic La Reforma, Mexico).

Yishai Jusidman in conversation with critic Barry Schwabsky and curator/critic Kevin Power, who will talk about his current exhibition at Mexico's Museum of Modern Art, his new book, *Paintworks* (Turner Libros) and the state of painting today.

Friday, June 12th, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Urgent Art for Urgent Times: A Presentation of the 53rd Venice Biennale's Emergency Pavilion, Curated by Artist/Curator Jota Castro.

Jota Castro in conversation with participating artists *goldiechiari* and others.

From the [press release](#) for *The Fear Society - Pabellón de la Urgencia*: "The world has changed... Many of our convictions have collapsed and we get hit by a new reality every day. We can be sure of one thing: Our society is governed by fear." *The Fear Society - Pabellón de la Urgencia* includes the work of the following artists: Tania Bruguera, Fernando Bryce, Jota Castro, Martin Dammann, Regina José Galindo, Rainer Ganahl, goldiechiari, Hans Haacke, Alfredo Jaar, Jesus Martinez Oliva, Jesus Segura, Ann-Sofi Sidén.

Please visit our website www.voltashow.com for an updated exhibitor list and press materials.

VOLTAS

Basel, June 8th - June 13th 2009

Venue: Markthalle, Viaduktstrasse 10, Basel

Opposite the SBB (Central Railway Station)

Early Preview: Monday June 8th, 12 - 4 p.m. (access by invitation only)

General Opening: Monday June 8th, 4 - 8 pm.

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, June 9th - June 13th, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Special Early Opening: Wednesday June 10th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Admission: 3 CHF (2 Euro)

Access:

Tram line 2 direct from Messeplatz (Art Basel) & Wettsteinplatz (Liste) to SBB or Markthalle.
Other lines 1, 8 & 16 to tram stop Markthalle.

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