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Sparkling Debut for the VOLTAShow 01 in Basel

For the first time the new VOLTAShow art fair opened on 13th June, 2005, running parallel to Art Basel and LISTE in Basel. Already on the first day the corridors were packed with collectors and curators from all over the world, inquisitive and curious about the new fair. The feedback from all involved parties is wholeheartedly positive. The participating galleries find the bright and airy Voltahalle a perfect location for presenting their art works, while the collectors appreciate the calm and intimate atmosphere, which exerts quite an appeal after the larger, more established fairs. The founders, **Friedrich Loock**, **Ulrich Voges**, and **Kavi Gupta** all agreed that the VOLTAShow kicked off with a cracking start.

Before the official opening hour on Monday such collectors as **Michael and Susan Hort** from New York were already strolling through the aisles; they left with a purchase of seven pieces. Also attending from New York was **Jerry Speyer**, who also left with a selection of new works for his impressive collection. **Don and Mera Rubell** from Miami Beach were to be seen helping the crew hang the banner on the outside, full of support and praise for this new initiative. From the UK both **Charles Saatchi** and **Anita Zabludowicz** were in a buying mood, as were French celebrity collectors and luxury-good rivals **François Pinault** and **Bernard Arnault**, as well as **Mimi Dusellier** and **Alain Servais**, from Belgium.

Particularly striking was the extension to the hall made especially for the VOLTAShow designed by Berlin-based architectural team **Girod Engelbrecht**. This semi-transparent light-filled annex, connected to the glass façade, gives the gallerists and visitors a view of each other as well as the art, creating a fascinating play with inside/outside, transparency/opacity. The steel and glass exterior allows for daylight to flood the roomy booth spaces, creating an spacious and open atmosphere..

Already on the first day the galleries were reporting brisk sales. Galerie Wohnmaschine from Berlin sold the large-format "Harmonielehre" by **Florian Merkel** to a collection in Amsterdam, Voges + Partner from Frankfurt sold several works by **Manfred Peckl** and **Yuken Teruya** to New York and Swedish dealer Aldy Milliken also placed a monumental work by newcomer **Kristina Jansson** in a significant New York collection. Curators and galleries have already expressed interest in solo shows at various worldwide locations for many of the emerging artists. Meanwhile the London gallery STORE took great pride in the fact that their exhibited artist **Ryan Gander**, won the prestigious Bâloise Art Prize at Art Basel.

The VOLTAShow 01 remains open through June 19th 2005, open daily from 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Entrance is CHF 15/ 10€, , reduced CHF 10/ 7€.. An evening ticket is available from 8 p.m. and costs CHF 10/ 7€.. The ticket price includes a free ride on the ferry shuttle between VOLTAShow and LISTE.

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