

Medienmitteilung

Monica Ursina Jäger

“Certitude of Speculative Thought”

Exhibition: 28 May until 25 June 2011, Opening: Friday 27 May, 6 to 8 pm

The artist will attend the opening.

“They speak of a new way to live yet build individual cages as in the past. [...] if hundred and sixty people reside in one building, is that new? Does it relate to a revolutionary way of life?”

Letter to the editor from the SA magazine (Magazine for revolutionary, constructivist architecture), Moscow, 1927

In John Brunner’s visionary and groundbreaking science fiction novel *Stand on Zanzibar* all of Manhattan is enclosed by the Buckminster Fuller Dome. With its confusing mixture of dystopian and utopian elements, the 1968 published book influenced a whole generation of young authors. Overpopulation – the book’s key topic – and all its subsequent problems are not solved by mankind despite their technological progress. The story jumps between Manhattan and Africa and Brunner uses architectural descriptions to highlight the decay of solidarity, the First World’s separation and isolation and the Third World’s utopian – yet in the end fruitless – revolution.

In “Certitude of Speculative Thought”, her first solo exhibition at Christinger De Mayo, Monica Ursina Jäger opposes her drawings to an evocative installation that is based on the famous construction by Buckminster Fuller (1895–1983). The architectural elements not only permeate the gallery space, but they seem to grow through it, thus appearing as something strangely organic. Similar to the exponentially growing cube in the graphic novel *La Fièvre d'Urbicande* by Schuiten/Peeters that perforates a whole city – to transform it as well as to expose its innermost essence – Jäger’s sculptural installation reflects the invisible layers of the graphic capriccios on the wall. The deconstruction and new configuration of the different architectures, be it an utopian Soviet scheme or a simple tree house, and their realisation in non-landscapes strike and unsettle us at the same time.

Monica Ursina Jäger:

Born 1974 in Thalwil/Zurich. Master of Fine Arts at Goldsmiths College, London. Different solo and group exhibitions in various museums and art spaces, a.o. Kunstmuseum Thun, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Haus für Kunst Uri, Galerie Anita Beckers Frankfurt, Kunstmuseum Chur, Sammlung Essl Klosterneuburg/Wien. Winner of the Swiss Art Award 2007. Monica Ursina Jäger lives and works in London and Zurich.

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