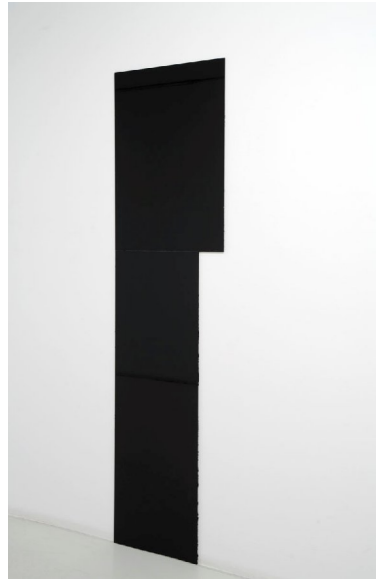


PRESS RELEASE:
Kitty Kraus, Jonas Lipps, Blinky Palermo
3rd – 25th May 2007

Allsopp Contemporary is pleased to announce its forthcoming group show Jonas Lipps, Kitty Kraus, Blinky Palermo.

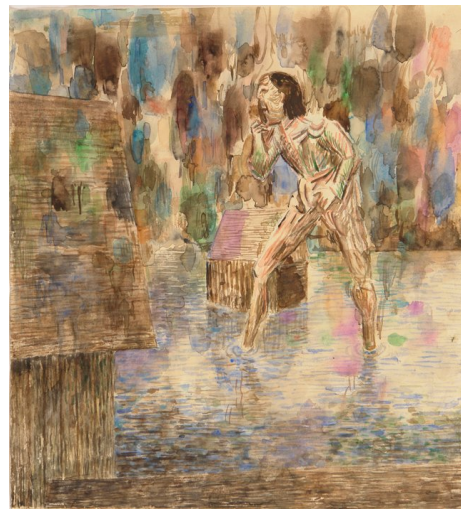
This exhibition introduces the work of two young German artists whose approach to artistic production has strong historical and thematic links with that of the late Blinky Palermo. Kraus and Lipps stand outside (but not against) contemporary artistic developments in much the same way Palermo did forty years ago. They do not adhere to a particular trend but seek to experiment with formulas and modes of image construction. At the heart of their artistic investigation is a desire and ability to extend the traditional limit of aesthetic perception. This process, started by the generation that blossomed in the 60s had Palermo as amongst its greatest protagonists. His life was tragically cut short but this exhibition aims to show how his approach and spirit are alive and well today.



Left: Kitty Kraus (b1976), Ice Lamp, 2006, electric light bulb, ice, black ink, silicone
Right: Kitty Kraus (b.1976), Untitled, 2006, cut suit cloth attached to wall

Kraus's works seem to be charged with the myths of modernism: its purity laws, its yearning for transcendence, the optimistic belief in the utopian potential of technology. But precisely these associations are shown as absurd by her works. In an almost mechanical, robot-like way, Kraus operates on the cadaver of a modernism that lost its innocence in DIY-stores, concrete apartment buildings, and office towers of the post WW II society. Divided into rectangular modules representing "upper body" and "lower body", her glass and cloth constructions exercise different variations of movements and attitudes in space, stripped of meaning. Human beings become the function of their social habits.

"Remarks On Kitty Kraus", Oliver Koerner von Gustorf, 2006 Translation: Wilhelm Werthern
Source: Gallery Neu, Berlin



Left: Jonas Lipps (b.1979), Untitled, 2006, watercolour on paper
Right: Jonas Lipps (b.1979), Untitled, 2006, watercolour on paper

Jonas Lipps does not take his inspiration from real life, but rather obtains his images from newspapers and magazines – especially unremarkable local magazines – the Internet and photographs. The reproductions chosen are quite unspectacular or downright neutral, because they present an uncompleted or unclear action. But what interests him above all is composition, which he re-elaborates, coming to a result that is completely different from the original. This happens by means of the technique, since one of the characteristics of watercolor is that it doesn't allow for the correction of errors or regrets and only admits moderate changes – once the paper has absorbed the color you can only add, not take away. To tackle watercolor therefore means to balance oneself continually between having and losing control, signifying that the images, which register the tracks of each passage, result in tension.

Alessandra Pace, 'Jonas Lipps', "Tema Celeste" #108, March / April 2005, pp. 82

The exhibition will include paintings, works on paper and prints by Blinky Palermo alongside new work by Kitty Kraus and Jonas Lipps.

Kitty Kraus and Jonas Lipps both studied at the Universität der Künste, Berlin. In 2006 Kitty Kraus had a solo exhibition with Gallery Neu, Berlin. In 2006 Jonas Lipps had a solo exhibition with Klosterfelde, Berlin. They both live and work in Berlin. Blinky Palermo died in 1977 at the age of 34. He has had numerous retrospectives most recently in 2002 at the MACBA, Barcelona.