

GALERIE RÜDIGER SCHÖTTLER

Group exhibition

Robert Barta, Ross Chisholm, Mindaugas Lukosaitis, Djordje Ozbolt, Jakub Julian Ziolkowski

22 April to 16 May 2006, Opening: Friday, 21 April 2006, 7-9 p.m.

This exhibition presents emerging artists whose works address narrative aspects of painting, drawing and installation.

Robert Barta, born in Prague in 1975, studied for a year in San Francisco, USA, and now lives in Munich. His work typically involves installations in which familiar objects such as a candle, a kennel or a doormat change in ways that reverse the message. The candle becomes "long-burning", the winners' podium becomes a podium for losers. His process of change results in apparently obvious everyday things being perceived as confusing, unexpected and absurd. His objects, such as a rolling shoe-scraper, involve the viewer actively while at the same time playing with the relativity of movement.

Ross Chisholm, born in Redhill, UK, in 1977, studied at Goldsmiths College in London and had his first exhibitions in London and Vilnius. He confronts us with unfamiliar worlds that make us feel uneasy. Elements such as a mushroom repeatedly crop up, alienating the images and objects, many of which are based on historic paintings or found images. Chisholm combines various styles and painterly techniques and plays with the painterly construction of reality. His paintings are executed in a style akin to that of the old masters.

Mindaugas Lukosaitis comes from Vilnius, Lithuania. His dream-like pencil drawings with grotesques and his precisely rendered female portraits might almost be from the Renaissance era. Lukosaitis is fascinated by the world between mythology and natural science, between the images of the subconscious and the gaze of the scientist. A knight in heavy armour falls from his wounded horse, women's heads meld with birds' heads. He draws war scenes with the precision of an eye-witness documentarist. In 2004 he showed an installation of his drawings at the Sao Paolo Biennale and last year he participated in the Baltic Triennial of International Art.

Djordje Ozbolt, born in 1967, lives in London, where he has exhibited at the Tate Triennale, Tate Britain. His small-scale paintings convey a gloomy and romantic vision of the world with elements of religion, children's stories, pop and trivial culture, film and art history. In The Last Impressionist we see a lone pink flamingo in a dreary landscape. In another of his pictures, a saint is seen stabbing a giraffe against an African landscape – a send-up of the image of George and the Dragon. Witty as they may seem at first glance, these are images that tell of a world whose values have shifted radically.

Jakub Julian Ziolkowski, born in Zamosc, Poland, in 1980, lives and works in Krakow. His paintings and drawings have affinities with the fantastic and the surreal. Ziolkowski is still relatively unknown in this country. In his mainly small-format pictures, he uses decorative elements and elements from nature, combining them to create colourful and imaginative scenarios. His bizarre and witty world of forms also includes such angst-inducing elements as falling missiles, which bring an aspect of confusion to the otherwise seemingly up-beat images.

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