

SCHAU ORT

ELISABETH KAUFMANN + CHRISTIANE BÜNTGEN

Press release concerning transfer of gallery ownership May 26, 2010

Gallery owner Elisabeth Kaufmann passed away due to her illness at the age of 61 on April 21, 2010 in Zurich. Beginning of the year, the gallery ownership was transferred to her business partner Christiane Büntgen.

Past: During the first months of 2009 Elisabeth Kaufmann Gallery was closed due to the gallery owner's illness. Elisabeth Kaufmann and Christiane Büntgen began their collaboration mid-2009 and planned recommencement of gallery activities under the name of SCHAU ORT (*German = a place to look at things*). The new name is inspiration for a novel gallery idea: different from customary gallery methods, we want to allow room for innovative projects and exhibitions. As SCHAU ORT was at the time not bound to a permanent exhibition space, the inauguration took place in the public space with an event by Zurich based Street Art protagonist Mayo Irion, accompanied by a music performance by Catdogs. In December 2009, the gallery (re-)opened in the new/old exhibition space at Müllerstrasse 57 with an extensive Pavel Pepperstein retrospective showing works from 1992-2008. The following exhibitions with Keren Cytter (February – April 2010) and Mariana Castillo Deball & Simone Schardt (April – May 2010) had to be conducted by Christiane Büntgen, as Elisabeth Kaufmann was at this time already to ill to work.

Present: The solo-exhibition "Seance" presenting new paintings, drawings and prints by Hadassah Emmerich will open on June 10, 2010. As this is the last exhibition Elisabeth Kaufmann and Christiane Büntgen planned together it is dedicated to the memory of Elisabeth Kaufmann (until July 17, 2010).

Future: With SCHAU ORT, Christiane Büntgen would like to concentrate on the gallery's younger artists to enable the conjoint growth of the gallery under new directorship together with the artists. For this reason, future exhibitions are planned with Claudia Wieser (December 2010 – January 2011), Anita Di Bianco (February – March 2011), and Lucy Skaer (June – July 2011). Established artists will mostly remain with the gallery as well, but will largely adopt an advisory function. Thus, Walter Dahn will organize an exhibition in 2011 presenting a selection of his students from Braunschweig's Hochschule der Künste.

In the future, Christiane Büntgen aims to invite international curators to present the gallery artists or works from the gallery archive in a new context. The first exhibition in this series will open during this year's Gallery Season Opening in Zurich end of August: Elke Bippus, professor at Zurich's Hochschule der Künste and former secretary of Hanne Darboven, will juxtapose Darboven's "Atta Troll" (125 drawings, 1988) and Irene Weingartner's seismographic drawings.

Christiane Büntgen will also open the exhibition space for absolute newcomers on-site. The idea to let practically unknown Zurich based artists – mostly just out of the academy – use the gallery for their own presentations was developed in collaboration with Elisabeth Kaufmann. In November, Martinka Kreneckova and Seline Baumgartner (both born 1980 and graduated from Zurich's Hochschule der Künste) will exhibit their works for the very first time in a gallery environment.

Finally, a gallery window only visible from the outside was transferred into a display case for further exciting projects. SCHAU FENSTER, literally "look window", is the German word for shop window. This SCHAU FENSTER aims to be a window into international galleries, ateliers, and curator offices. At the moment, visitors may enjoy a work by Daniel Pasteiner (*1980 in Kuwait) from Rod Barton Gallery, London. This light-sculpture develops its charm only in the dark – the window is open from Wednesday to Friday night.