

SEPTEMBER

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It is our great pleasure to announce the opening of our gallery SEPTEMBER.

The inaugural exhibition presents the works of:

Kerstin Drechsel

MITTELERDE

10/2 – 11/24/2007

Opening: 9/29/2007, 7 – 10 p.m.

Brownish red muddies the image like coagulated blood. The devil presides in the form of a plastic mask on a pinewood bookshelf; delicate cellular shapes rise up from an Ikea lampshade. Fluorescent color trickles like melting wine gum over houseplants, movie posters, piles of clothing, fantasy books, CDs, and videotapes, while elsewhere details emerge in sharp focus. The conceptual painting Kerstin Drechsel employs in her latest series *MITTELERDE* (*Middle Earth*) to examine the apartment of a Heavy Metal fan resembles both an alchemical and chemical process in which everything is in a state of development. As in her earlier series of paintings *RESERVE* (2001-2005) and *UNSER HAUS* (*Our House*, 2005), Drechsel infiltrates other people's lives. Instead of making portraits of the persons themselves, however, she assesses their intimate environments in the most exacting of manners: hidden corners of bedrooms and living rooms, all the arrangements of objects, mementoes, fetishes, and relics that have collected over the course of years or decades.

On the surface, the paintings of the Berlin-based artist touch upon a theme that frequently appears in sensational tabloid reports and reality soaps: the phenomenon of the "Messie Syndrome." In Drechsel's painting, however, the invitation to voyeurism is linked to a different concern. She's not interested in denouncing anyone or in providing a view of social or private conditions, but in questioning how this view is constructed. In Drechsel's paintings, the fine line between self-made organizational systems, obsessive collecting, and spreading squalor finds its formal analogy in the oscillation between the representational and its dissolution into abstraction. Much in the manner of cinematic dramaturgy, she always shows the same objects and segments of rooms – reproducing them in varying nuances of color and techniques in wide shot and close-up that establish a subjective perception in which the structures of order and disorder converge in an unsettling way.

At the same time, *MITTELERDE* is a staging of space that plays with various different perspectives and scales. The core of the exhibition consists of a group of sculptures Drechsel based on the forms of poured lead figures [a German New Year's Eve tradition that entails heating up pieces of lead and dropping the molten metal into cold water. The resulting shapes are interpreted as omens for the new year]. Greatly enlarged and sprayed in white industrial enamel, these relics from a New Year's Eve ritual resemble semi-abstract shapes upon which all manner of

esoteric or art historical interpretations can be projected; at the same time, they translate the process-based nature of Drechsel's painting into the third dimension.

Kerstin Drechsel studied at the HdK in Berlin and was Meisterschülerin (MFA graduate) under Achim Freyer. Her works have been shown in numerous exhibitions since 1992. Among her most recent solo shows are *UNSER HAUS* (*Our House*) and *POSTER_BOX*, both presented at Laura Mars Grp., Berlin, as well as *RESERVE*, presented at the Allgemeinen Konsumverein in Braunschweig. Her paintings and installations have been shown in group exhibitions such as *Das Achte Feld* (*The Eighth Square*) at the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, *A Room of One's Own* at De Markten in Brussels, and *Das Atmen der Stadt* (*The Breath of the City*) at the Haus am Waldsee in Berlin; her work has been extensively addressed in the art volume *New German Painting* (Prestel, 2006), among others. On the occasion of the exhibition *MITTELERDE*, Vice Versa Verlag is publishing a catalogue that features an interview with the artist as well as an essay by Frank Wagner.

Extensive information on the artists and exhibition program at SEPTEMBER can be found at our website www.september-berlin.com. You're also welcome to contact us by mail at: office@september-berlin.com or telephone at: + 49 30 616 56770. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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