

"take space for example ..."

Vlatka Horvat - Sebastian Stumpf - Steve van den Bosch

annex14

Raum für aktuelle Kunst GmbH

Vernissage: 25 February 2010, 6 pm

Exhibition: 26 February - 27 March 2010

With Vlatka Horvat (\*1974, CR), Sebastian Stumpf (\*1980, DE) and Steve van den Bosch (\*1975, BE) annex14 is delighted to be showing three artistic positions which deal in extremely different ways with space

"take space for example ...": Space as such is an abstract philosophical term. In everyday life, by contrast, it is split into countless tangible spaces defined by social and political, cultural and economic rules. These can be superimposed, can compete with or even mutually exclude one another.

This is where Vlatka Horvat begins, in videos, collages and photographs which deal with the question of the social placing of the - female - body. Still marked by a youth spent in communist Yugoslavia, the artist renders the helplessness and uncertainties that emerge in times of historical upheavals visible with a subtle humour. Her video *Left to Right & Back*, 2003, is extremely ambiguous, toying as it does with the concrete and metaphorical right and left. The quasi slap-stick scenario - a cupboard in which the artist is hiding is constantly pushed over and back in a closed room - hovers between dead-end activism and an apparently comical stubbornness.

In video and photographic works Sebastian Stumpf explores the interplay of body and existing interior and exterior spaces, including urban situations familiar to us from large cities. The photograph series *Sukima (Auf Türen und Mauern in Lücken stehen)*, 2009, show the artist fitting himself into gaps in buildings. The images present him in his self-chosen free space, which is surely the involuntary result of a Japanese urban planning dominated by economic considerations. The photograph series is like a microscope, enabling us to gaze through the visible surface at the

Junkerngasse 14  
Postfach 586  
CH-3000 Bern 8  
Tel +41 (0)31 311 97 04  
Fax +41 (0)31 311 97 05

Susanne Friedli  
Elisabeth Gerber  
info@annex14.com

Öffnungszeiten:  
Mi-Fr 14-18h  
Sa 12-16h  
oder nach Vereinbarung

www.annex14.com

structures behind it, which we mostly forget in our busy everyday life.

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Steve van den Bosch often intervenes directly with his works into the existing space, in his case, the space of art. As a concept artist, he focuses on art as such and its social preconditions. In his interventions and projections, for example the slide projection *50%*, 2006, as well as in his drawings and objects, the rooms which can be concretely experienced are also a means to an end; they are the springboard into thought spaces which they simultaneously challenge by subverting their perceptual and value systems.