

"words such as painting and sculpture"

Omar Alessandro, Pavel Büchler, Luis Camnitzer and Maurizio Nannucci

Opening: 27 January 2011, 6 pm

Exhibition: 28.1 - 5.3.2011

The exhibition title "words such as painting and sculpture" cites Sol LeWitt, who since the 1970s has been exploring the linguistic nature of art definitions and their social pre-conditions. However "words such as painting and sculpture" is also the motif in a drawing by Pavel Büchler (*1952, CZ/GB). In other words: The focus of this exhibition is both an analytical-critical and a poetic-subversive engagement with the art system. Yet the work of the three artists is characterized by an extremely sensual handling of the rather delicate material.

While early works such as „*Does this image fill your concept of art*“, 1976/1980 by Maurizio Nannucci (*1939, IT) and *The Shadow of the Horizon*, 1976/1983 by Luis Camnitzer (*1937, RDU/USA), who is regarded as one of the main founders of Latin American concept art, underscore the unfathomable relationship between word and image with a touch of humour, the 1977 room-specific text-work *The Reflection* questions the connection between reality and its representation and touches directly on the very foundations of our perception. The 2008 series "Ink on paper" by Pavel Büchler also plays with our seeing habits, as when the artist shrewdly subverts the aesthetic criteria for "correctly" composed drawings, thereby exposing these as coded taste.

In 1968 Sol LeWitt wrote: "The words of one artist to another can unleash a chain of ideas." If "words" are understood as an artist's formal-thematic language, then this means that existing works can produce new works. Omar Alessandro (*1979, I/CH) takes up this idea by using works by other artists as the starting point for works of his own. He cites, synthesises and combines these into something new and so reflects the art system by means of art, while also opening up another window onto the world, as for example in "*Untitled (Picture Now)*", 2010.

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