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PRESS RELEASE

BIELEFELDER KUNSTVEREIN

BENEDIKT HIPPI

ATLAS OHNE VERMERK

MAY 08 – JULI 18, 2010

MARIA LOBODA

NEW THOUGHTS, OLD FORMS

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PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010, 12 AM

Pressegespräch und Führung durch die Ausstellung mit den Künstlern Benedikt Hipp, Maria Loboda und Thomas Thiel (Künstlerischer Leiter).

OPENING: FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010, 19 PM

ARTIST TALK: SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010, 4 PM

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In the context of his first institutional solo exhibition, Benedikt Hipp (*1977 in Munich) is showing new figurative paintings together with abstracts and works on paper at the Bielefelder Kunstverein. For the first time, the artist is also exhibiting space-consuming sculptures and large-format tableau paintings, which are embedded in scenarios related to their locale.

Benedikt Hipp's works speak of a simultaneous presence and absence, as is inherent in dreams or moments of contemplation. The spaces in his pictures are enlivened by contradictions. They move in the force-field of objective versus non-objective form, fullness and emptiness, figuration and abstraction. In the first instance, Hipp's artistic work can be understood as engaging with the tradition of painting, of the possibilities of the painted picture and of its current significance. What we discover in the paintings, ink drawings and sketches seems comprehensible but also has a disturbing effect. On second glance, it becomes clear that these elements of his pictures distance themselves from reality through this sort of structuring. Set in light and context against a dark background, motifs come across as removed from the real world. Hipp's pictures quote ornaments, but without diffusing their narrative potential in pure decoration. In doing this, he generates an ambivalent feeling of simultaneous familiarity and emptiness. Common to his works is their trait of engaging with the origins of artworks in cultic rituals. And that also includes re-engaging with research into objects and their auras. Hipp takes on nothing less than investigating the essence of the world and, with that, investigating what defies representation. Despite the odd ironic interjection, art traditionally understands itself as a cultic object and as a possibility of transcending the here and now. Artists build imaginary

stages, which are extended in the exhibition space and draw viewers into the pictorial space as the counterpoint to their staging. What is actually going on is to be found, however, outside this space.

Benedikt Hipp lives and works in Munich. He studied painting at the Nürnberg Academy of the Plastic Arts and in Bologna, as well as at the Academy of the Plastic Arts in Munich. In 2007 he completed his studies under Prof. Sean Scully. Hipp has already received numerous scholarships and prizes for his work. Last year, he figured in solo exhibitions in the collection of the German Federal Bank in Frankfurt am Main, the Schürmann collection in Berlin and with an Art Statement from the Galerie Iris Kadel at Art Basel. In addition, his works were exhibited in the group exhibitions, »ölmachtgeld« (Kunstarkaden, Munich, 2008), »Legend« (Departmental Domain Chamarande, France, 2008) and »Do you have expectations?« (wartesaal, Zurich, 2008).

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Maria Loboda's first institutional solo exhibition has as its centre the portrait of a room styled by wall-ornaments and obscure objects alongside architectural alterations. This staging, which also includes the inner courtyard of the Society of Arts, stresses the psychological meaning of spaces and objects. The exhibition, »New thoughts, old forms«, is inspired by the early 20th century creative reform movement. And with it, Loboda (*1979 in Krakow) also takes up the regional significance of textile-production in Bielefeld.

Maria Loboda's work allows us to make wide-ranging links to literature, music and art, but also to mysticism and to folk-beliefs. A fundamental interest in translating language and knowledge into single objects and special ensembles runs right through her work. For Loboda the material world around us is a cosmos of signs. She understands every material thing as the result of a cultural process or of an aesthetic concept. In many cases, she is, as an artist, motivated by a search for this dynamic spirit of things, for their unconscious symbolism and poetic power. These characteristics can dwell in ways of thinking, in things and spaces equally. An essential part of his artistic strategy corresponds to the principle of collage and consists of selecting individual elements and assembling them into a new whole. It is, above all, found elements that are combined with her own objects. Loboda does not focus thematically on any particular epoch, but, like a researcher, she illuminates a specific period, like, for example, Joseph Haydn's concept of chamber music, the significance of the Victorian language of flowers or the symbols of occultism and magic. Loboda investigates the question as to how past intellectual history affects objects and how these can be made material today. With that, documentary-historical space becomes space conceived and experienced here and now.

Maria Loboda lives and works in Berlin. She finished her studies under Prof. Mark Leckey at the Städelschule Academy of the Plastic Arts in Frankfurt am Main. Loboda received studio scholarships from the Kulturstiftung der Dresdner Bank and the Hessische Kulturstiftung. She has already participated in numerous international group exhibitions, most recently at the 2nd Athens Biennale (2009), »The Long Dark« (International 3 Manchester, England, 2009) and »The Great Transformation« at the Frankfurt Society of Arts (2008). Last year, Maria Loboda was represented in the Galerie Schleicher+Lange (Paris) with her first solo presentation.

The exhibition is kindly supported by



BROSCHURE

To mark the exhibition, a 28-page brochure will be published (German/English).

GUIDED TOURS

During our exhibitions we offer free guided tours every Sunday at 5 pm. We also offer individual guided tours at a date of your choice.

You will find further information related to the exhibition in the press section of our website www.bielefelder-kunstverein.de.

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