

Press information

Erik Schmidt | The most beautiful hunter in Germany
Ernesto Caivano | Union and Offerings
Sunset Flash

April 26 – May 28 2005, Tuesday to Saturday, 11 AM – 6 PM
Opening April 23, 6 PM

We are pleased to announce the coming solo exhibitions from Erik Schmidt and Ernesto Caivano. In addition to this we are showing *Sunset Flash* by Paul Pfeiffer a private viewing.

Erik Schmidt is showing the prelude to his extensive cycle *The most beautiful hunter in Germany*, an artistic approach to the Weser nobility and the rituals that make up the aristocracy. The exhibit in Bogen 52 consists of paintings (oil on canvas) and a photo-series.

His works revolve above all around the artist's relation to various societal circles and strata and show how their codes, by being continually re-staged, first make their societal relations possible. At the center of Erik Schmidt's work is first and foremost a lived experience. This is then transposed in various media. Through its repeated medial transfer the lived experience becomes a silhouette that refers to its own representation. It becomes the image of a image – it becomes gesture.

What is extraordinary about his painting is that it bears the qualities of photography, just as his photography carries something essentially painterly in it. They're paintings in the spirit of photography and maintain this through their angle of apprehension as well as through their particular kind of temporality. Thus they immortalize the everyday experience on the canvas and, with the aestheticization unique to painting, lift it up into the momentary sensation of color that seems to persist for eternity. By way of contrast the series of photos develops a way of staging itself that focuses the eye above all on gestural language: the self-preserving rituals of the aristocracy congeal into a catalog of signs that can now be gleaned under the spell of photography. The ritual – here the hunt in particular – becomes an arrangement of form that maintains its survival only through its continual re-performance. Erik Schmidt will be presenting a video piece in the Marta Herford Museum in 2007 which forms a part of his cycle *The most beautiful hunter in Germany*.

In Bogen 51 carlier | gebauer is showing a new work from Ernesto Caivano. The artist, living in New York, has met with the most positive response in his country and has already exhibited in PS1 and the Whitney Biennial. Caivano works on a highly complex world of fantasy, founded upon a timeless epic, which continually produces new narratives, details and connections. A pair of lovers gets separated and the man is transformed into a knight, the woman into a space-ship; Caivano depicts the many mysterious stations of the odyssey that the pair take to in order to find each other. The odyssey leads to an enormous universe of fantasy, classical romance and high-technology wherein knights, princesses and crystalline nano-structures enter into various combinations. Caivano executes his drawings with an unparalleled accuracy and meticulousness reminiscent of the old masters; they remind one of Albrecht Dürer's etchings and evoke comparison with Romantics such as Blake and Füssli, with silhouettes from the 19th century, or with the contemporary French comic.

carlier | gebauer is pleased to mark the beginning of their collaboration with Ernesto Caivano by showing a central piece from the epic *After the Woods*, an installation in three parts. The theoretical substructure of *Union and Offerings* refers to brain research in which the right and left hemispheres and their conjunction form a trinity; thus one panel tells the story of the knight, the other the princess' story. The third resolves both narrative strands in a universe. Ernesto Caivano can be seen at the moment in the exhibition *Greater New York* in PS1 in New York.

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