

**press release**

**Marko Lehanka | Schöne Gruß vom Country-Boy**

**9. September bis 1. November 2003, Dienstags bis Samstag, 11 - 18 Uhr**

**Opening: Saturday, September 6, 2003, 6 pm**

We are pleased to announce the first solo exhibition by Marko Lehanka in our gallery. The extensive showing in Bogen 52 is also Marko Lehanka's first solo presentation in Berlin. Among Lehanka's most important prior exhibitions are his contributions – spaces – to the series "Szenenwechsel" ("Change of Scene") in the MMK Frankfurt. Andreas Bee writes in the catalogue for Szenenwechsel XVII:

„Urged on by curiosity and desire, Lehanka constantly examines what is, perhaps because it could be unlike what it at first glance seems to be. He takes a stance which vacillates between subversion and impertinence, a mistrustful, indeed at times heretical attitude towards all rigid, restricting conventions. Lehanka attacks the pathos of false grandeur, seeks to unearth the truly interesting in the banal.“

Lehanka's work is closely tied to the territory of the German language. Here he shows outstanding installations in which local customs and rituals encounter the Lehanka dictionary. In the Berlin exhibition, the centerpiece will be a work that has enjoyed the artist's attention for years and that takes an exceptional position not only within his oeuvre.

"Marko Lehanka leads the visitor past the Olympic Grill through a narrow painting gallery that blends into the real picture. And one is already in the middle of things. In a delimited area stand the sometimes more, sometimes less used targets, and the special weapons created for the purpose can be viewed, lined up beside each other – but well chained up and thus only for viewing; movies of rural axe throwing are shown. Seated comfortably in a high bar-forest and well supplied with woodruff punch, one can listen to the computer-generated stories, narrated live, that emanate from an oversized flower calyx on the wall. Bacchus still stands. But the path to the rainbow with the air-dried salami remains off limits till the end of the exhibition..." (Claudia Olbrych, 2003)

1961 born in Herborn. 1985-1990 Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main by Thomas Bayrle and Michael Croissant.

**Exhibitions 2000 - 2003 / Selection**

**2003** "Schöne Gruß vom Country-Boy", carlier | gebauer, Berlin, Germany (S); „Das Atmen der Stadt“, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, Germany (G); **2002** "Bushaltestelle - Museum - Nürnberg Feucht", Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany (S); "Bilder Lager Kunst Verein", Galerie Martina Detterer, Frankfurt/Main, Germany (S); "At Boys Eden Garten", Overbeck Gesellschaft, Lübeck (S); "Kino - Foyer", Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt/Main, Germany (G); **2001** Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (G); "Frankfurter Kreuz", Schirn, Frankfurt/Main, Germany (G); **2000** "Szenenwechsel XVII", MMK, Frankfurt/Main, Germany (G); "Mixing Memory and Desire", Neues Kunstmuseum, Luzern, Switzerland (G); "Forward - a Choice", BBL Kulturzentrum, Brussels, Belgium (G); "today: spicesbreadcompetitioneating", Leo Koenig, New York, USA (S).

Sebastian Diaz Morales | A K Dolven | Tracey Emin | Michel François | Meschac Gaba | Hans Hemmert | Jonathan Hernández | Thomas Huber | **Marko Lehanka** | Aernout Mik | Jean-Luc Moulène | Peter Pommerer | Bojan Sarcevic | Erik Schmidt | Christian Schumann | Thomas Schütte | Santiago Sierra | Fred Tomaselli | Sophie Tottie | Janaina Tschäpe | Luc Tuymans | Mark Wallinger