

DOMOBAAL

Steve Johnson: Die Welt vorbeiziehen lassen

Dates: 14 November to 20 December 2008 and 8 to 17 January 2009

Open: Thursday to Saturday 12 to 6 pm

Letting the World Pass By: The View on The Platform

an essay by Karl Baker will be available at the exhibition.

Domo Baal is delighted to present Steve Johnson's first solo show in the gallery.

Steve Johnson's recent work including sculpture and watercolours, juxtaposes elements of the built urban environment with the earth fundament on which they stand.

Schrumpfende Städte (Shrinking Cities) and other sculptures are installed high on the gallery's walls, almost too high; the altered perspective revealing two disparate working practices, apparently at odds with each other. The level from pavement up, with its tantalisingly intricate elongated lampposts and detailed bus shelters is constructed with attentive care, using precise machinery and tools. This element is then perversely obscured from view, being placed emphatically above eye-level. Instead the gaze is planted firmly below ground fixed on a rough mass of composite matter, sculpted with a clawing action and then smeared with an inert soil formula. 'Deep Time' is suggested here, an archaeological term describing time as concretised layers of earth below our feet.

This altered perspective exudes a feeling of disconnectedness, further emphasised by the 'island' quality of each piece. Context and immediate environment are deleted restricting the dialogue between building and environment to the vertical - between above and below. Scaled awkwardly larger than one might expect, yet far from the monumental, these are not miniature architectural models but more precisely psychological portraits of familiar everyday places.

Places for storytelling and revelry, places of retreat and escape - all from a worm's eye view.

Steve Johnson is a current recipient of a Pollock-Krasner award. He and Domo Baal would like to thank the Kulturstadt and Interessengemeinschaft der Galerien Wiesbaden, Germany. 'Shrinking Cities' was recently selected for and exhibited in '12 Am Ring' Wiesbaden, as part of Wiesbaden Kunstsommer. Most recently in the UK Johnson exhibited in 'Concrete Dreams' at APT, Deptford, and 'The Edge of The Everyday' at Chelsea Future Space.

coming up:

Christopher Hanlon and Miho Sato:

Impulse Booth I-202 at Pulse Miami, 2.12 - 07.12.

2009

Christopher Hanlon: January/February

John Strutton: March/April

Felicity Powell: June/July