## CHRISTINE KÖNIG GALERIE

## **EXHIBITION INFORMATION**



THOMAS KILPPER / JIMMIE DURHAM curated by Marius Babias

Opening: Thursday, September 20, 2012, 6 pm

Through October 25, 2012

From the *CONVERSATIONS* series: *Aesthetics as Revolt* Jan Tabor in conversation with Thomas Kilpper Saturday, September 22, 2012, 12 pm

THOMAS KILPPER was born in Stuttgart in 1956. He lives and works in Berlin. He studied painting and sculpture at the Academies of Fine Arts Nuremberg, Düsseldorf (Prof. Alfonso Hüppi), and Frankfurt am Main (Städelschule). 1998 master student of Prof. Georg Herold, Städelschule Frankfurt.

Selected exhibitions from 2010: Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Kopenhagen; *Etna Carrara*, Ludwig Forum, Aachen; *Pavilion for Revolutionary Free Speech*, Danish Pavilion, 54th Venice Biennale; *Punk statt Stasi!*, Galerie Christian Nagel, Cologne.

JIMMIE DURHAM was born in Washington, Arkansas, in 1940. He lives and works in Rome and Berlin. From the early 1960's, Jimmie Durham was active in theatre, performance, and literature in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. 1973-1980 Founder and Director of the *International Indian Treaty Council* and its representative at the United Nations. 1981-1983 Director of the *Foundation for the Community of Artists* (FCA) in New York City.

Selected exhibitions from 2010: *A Matter of Life and Death and Singing*, M HKA Antwerp; *dOCUMENTA* (13), Kassel; *Animism. Modernity through the Looking Glass*, Generali Foundation, Vienna; Deichtorhallen, Hamburg; *The New Décor*, Hayward Gallery, London; *1st Ural Industrial Biennial for Contemporary Art*, Ekaterinburg.

Thomas Kilpper most recently attracted attention with his project *State of Control* (2009), set at the former Ministry for State Security of the GDR in Berlin, and also with his *Pavilion for Revolutionary Free Speech* (2011) at the Danish Pavilion of the 54th Venice Biennale. Exhibition visitors could step along large-format portraits of historical and present-day figures, such as Silvio Berlusconi, Ulrike Meinhof, Rosa Luxemburg, or Karl Marx, that had been carved into the flooring. Kilpper makes prints of these wood and linoleum works in the floor, taking the carved motifs and hanging them in the exhibition space. He explores historical themes and the ideological concepts of surveillance and repression. Taking a radically subjective perspective, Kilpper narrates, as it were, the prehistory of "history," disrupting the ideas and images that have solidified within us as historical truths. The artist assembles the historical figures in a history painting using linocuts and woodcuts - fragmentary, cultrate, and suggestive. "History" as montage.

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Jimmie Durham's sculptures, objects, images, and poems thematically explore worldly experience from the perspective of the minority and the outsider. Durham, a member of the Cherokee Tribe in the USA, has long fought for the rights of Native Americans and has served as a representative of indigenous peoples at the United Nations. Having lived in Europe as an artist and poet for twenty-five years, he unswervingly advocates a humanistic stance that eschews ideology and pathos. His artistic and poetological strengths lie in reframing things and language to lend them new expression and to change our world of experience. (Marius Babias, 2012)