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**David Ostrowski – *Tried and Failed*
3rd November – 22nd December 2012**

David Ostrowski is a painter based in Cologne, who studied at the Düsseldorf Art Academy from 2004-2009 under Albert Oehlen. His first solo exhibition at BolteLang consists of paintings from Ostrowski's *F* series; they have been painted this year, though the series has been developed over several years. This is an exhibition about nothing.

The titular *F* stands for failure, which pinpoints what is at stake in these works. 'Painting means war to me' Ostrowski has stated; it is a Sisyphean undertaking, as the artist strives to achieve an impossible standard of beauty. The works may not at first suggest this, being spare white, and occasionally black, canvases whose complex surfaces are formed by adding and removing paint and other media, culling and sticking. Any application of a shorthand towards the achievement of his aesthetic aims (like that which is easy on the eye, a distracting assault of colour or other sign of complacency,) would be anathematic to Ostrowski's approach. The artist does all that he can to avoid deploying practised gestures, painting with his right hand as if it were his left. (Lest the painstaking method itself becomes a trap, other works, like *F (Val Kilmer)*, are simple, swift gestures on unprimed canvas.) He tries to forget his significant training in painting in order to create an environment in which the unexpected can occur.

Unplanned happenings in the studio are Ostrowski's means towards new knowledge; his process is an ongoing struggle to unlearn and rediscover, learning in so doing not just about painting but also reframing his understanding of beauty. The use of chance is evident in the work *F (Dann lieber nein)*, whose rectangular shapes were formed by dust accumulating on the canvas while it was stored in his studio. His painterly vocabulary equally develops from accidents of form, taking unforeseen lines that appear and recreating them in future works. These swift gestures are akin to the furtive signature of a tagger who works fast for fear of being caught; he and Ostrowski share the medium of the spray can too. Ostrowski is not concerned with graffiti per se, but his paintings build patina like buildings, a combination of design and accidental elements, abuse and care and the passage of time. This is the nothing that unifies the works in this exhibition – the artist's concern for the disregarded, fruitful everyday.

Aoife Rosenmeyer

David Ostrowski was born in 1981 in Cologne where he still lives and works. He studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf under Albert Oehlen from 2004 – 09. Recent and future exhibitions include: tbc, solo, Peres Projects, Berlin, 2013; *From bad to worse*, solo, ltd los angeles, LA, 2012; *Jonathan Binet, Lydia Gifford & David Ostrowski*, BolteLang, Zurich, 2012; *David Ostrowski & Jack Henry*, Nudashank, Baltimore, 2012; *Dann lieber nein*, solo, Figge von Rosen, Cologne, 2012; *Sprechen sie dick*, with Harmony Korine, Jagla Ausstellungsraum, Cologne, 2012; *Neue Tiere 3*, Kunstverein Koelnberg, Cologne, 2012; *Single Museum*, Kunstraum Düsseldorf, 2011. David Ostrowski will be showing new works at Artissima 18 with BolteLang (booth 6, orange corridor).

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BolteLang

DAVID OSTROWSKI

Born 1981 in Cologne, Germany.
Lives and works in Cologne, Germany.

EDUCATION

2004 - 2009 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *F*, Artothek, Cologne, Germany
2012 *Tried and Failed*, BolteLang, Zurich, Switzerland
From Bad to Worse, ltd los angeles, Los Angeles, USA
David Ostrowski & Jack Henry, Nudashank, Baltimore, USA
Dann lieber nein, Figge von Rosen, Cologne, Germany
Sprechen sie dick, with Harmony Korine, Jagla Ausstellungsraum, Cologne, Germany
2011 *Between Two Ferns*, Mike Potter Projects, Cologne, Germany
Die Lügnerin, Format:C, Dusseldorf, Germany
2010 *1981*, (with Luke Barber-Smith), Parkhaus im Malkasten, Düsseldorf, Germany
2008 *Bilder mit Sonnenbrand*, (with Max Frintrop), First Floor Contemporary, Düsseldorf, Germany
2007 *How to Look at Homegrown Terror*, Fette's Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Hulk vs. Hulk, (with Max Frintrop), Kunstraum Acapulco, Düsseldorf, Germany
2006 *Wie man aus einer Affäre gleich zwei macht*, Raum für Kunst und Musik, Cologne, Germany
2005 *Das Goldene Scheiß*, Raum für Kunst und Musik, Cologne, Germany

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Grosse Jahresgabenausstellung*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
Bread Box, ZieherSmith, Nashville, Tennessee, USA
En désordre, Sammlung Philara, Dusseldorf, Germany
Family Matters, Le Courant, Brussels, Belgium
Full House, Kunstgruppe Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
New Gestural Painting, September, Berlin, Germany
Blitz, Rod Barton Gallery, London, UK
Neue Tiere 3, Kunstverein Koelnberg, Cologne, Germany
TLK DRTY, Amstel41, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Jonathan Binet, Lydia Gifford and David Ostrowski, BolteLang, Zurich, Switzerland
Unterm Strich, Figge von Rosen, Cologne, Germany
Neue Wände, Knust x Kunz, Munich, Germany
2011 *This is Tomorrow*, Annarumma Gallery, Naples, Italy
Boo!, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Vor Gott ist alle Kunst Scheisse II, Boutique, Cologne, Germany
Jahresgaben, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
GSK - Gesellschaft für streitorientierte Kulturforschung, Dusseldorf, Germany
Single Museum, Kunstraum Düsseldorf, Germany
Papierarbeiten, Jagla Ausstellungsraum, Cologne, Germany
Moraltarantula 5, Zollamt-Oberhafenkantine, Hamburg, Germany
Korrupte Talente, Avantrash, Munich, Germany
Single Club, Dusseldorf, Germany
Dirty Dancing, Figge von Rosen Galerie, Cologne, Germany
Everything you ever liked about your mother, 15 Howie Street, London, UK
The Spur of the Moment, Nest, Den Haag, The Netherlands
Pop Hits, Tanzschule, München; Autocenter, Berlin, Germany
2010 *Addition and Subtraction*, 304 days, Vancouver, Canada
GSK - Gesellschaft für streitorientierte Kulturforschung, Dusseldorf, Germany
Vor Gott ist alle Kunst Scheisse, Oktober, Dusseldorf, Germany
Moraltarantula 4, Elektrohaus, Hamburg, Germany
A thing is a thing in a whole which it's not, Temporary Gallery Cologne, Cologne, Germany
We redefine when we come of age 1976-1987, Toldkammeret, Helsingør, Denmark

- The rest is history*, Mike Potter Projects, Berlin, Germany
Editionen + X, Artleib, Dusseldorf, Germany
The Destroyed Room, Whatspace, Perron 58, Tilburg, The Netherlands
Forgotten Bar Project, Galerie im Regierungsviertel, Berlin, Germany
Nothing is wrong if it feels good, Mike Potter Projects, Cologne, Germany
2009 *Lust auf Öl*, Raum Kalk, Cologne, Germany
The last real painters, Resy Muijers Contemporary Art, Tilburg, The Netherlands
Painting on the Möve, kuratiert von Albert Oehlen, Wiensowski & Harbord, Berlin, Germany
Something strange will happen this summer, Mike Potter Projects, Oxford, UK
Whatbar 5, Whatspace, Gent, Belgium
Giganten, Mike Potter Projects, Cologne, Germany
Dolce Standards, Maverick, Cologne, Germany
2008 *1001 Bild*, Villa de Bank, Enschede, The Netherlands
Great Expectations, Artlab21, Bergamont Station, Los Angeles, USA
2007 *Unqualifiziertes Dunkel*, Raum für Kunst und Musik, Cologne, Germany
Bye, Bye Acapulco, Kunstraum Acapulco, Dusseldorf, Germany
Kombilösung: Spiegelvision, Artleib, Dusseldorf, Germany
Achte oder zehnte Ausstellung im Blast Raum, Kunstraum Blast, Cologne, Germany
Royalbunker, Institut für zeitgenössische Beobachtung, Vienna, Austria
2006 *I know you, but you don't know me*, Fette's Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Intersection, Resy Muijers Contemporary Art, Tilburg, The Netherlands
Jahresgaben, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany
Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten, Kunstraum Acapulco, Dusseldorf, Germany
Vergeht mir Hören, Sehen und Denken, Galerie Tedden, Oberhausen, Germany
Public Folder #2, Raum für Kunst und Musik, Cologne; Museumsquartier, Vienna, Austria

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2012 Atelierstipendium Kölnischer Kunstverein und Imhoff-Stiftung, Cologne, Germany

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 *Jonathan Binet, Lydia Gifford, and David Ostrowski*, by Quinn Latimer, Art Forum, Summer Edition
Einer Kritzelt, Einer läuft vor die Wand, by Bettina Haiss, Kölner Stadtanzeiger, April 16
David Ostrowski, Moff Magazine, March
2011 *Auch im Sommer auf allen Kanälen*, by Magdalena Kröner, Frankfurter Allgemeine, August 15
Cologne: An interview with David Ostrowski, by Anna-Lena Werner, www.artfridge.de, January 24
2007 *Interview with David Ostrowski*, by Nancy Lupo, www.artslant.com