

GALERIE RODOLPHE JANSSEN

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Gert & Uwe Tobias
22.04 > 28.05.2014

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Drawing sits at the heart of Gert & Uwe Tobias' development of their formal language, and of their subsequent explorations in painting and large-scale woodcuts. Their process alchemically combines a highly personalised mythology with a continuous appetite for popular culture and an expansive knowledge of art and folk history. The Tobias' works emerge as animistic depictions of unclear yet disarming narratives - ones that we as an audience recognize, but cannot immediately place.

For their fourth solo exhibition at Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Gert & Uwe Tobias present a drawing series of portraits depicting ghoulish female figures. Here, elegant yet decidedly grotesque feminine forms are delineated through continuous graphite lines, and bordered by washes of delicate colours deriving from the same printing ink used for the brothers' woodcuts.

While drawn from the Tobias' uncanny imagination, the gestural, dancer-like poses of their subjects hint at the brothers' deep appreciation for art history. Even as the female figures seem to decay and drip, their gracefully outstretched arms and serene facial expressions recall renaissance portraiture. And yet, as smoke-like lines billow in, out, and around the female figures, an air of macabre is unmistakable. The subjects' ethereal gestures are curiously condensed in their hands and eyes, which succumb to penetrating detail and betray their inevitable deterioration.

The Tobias' subjects emerge from vase-like forms as part of a continuous metamorphic process, one that tellingly never discloses whether the female form is emerging from the feminine object - or the feminine object is emerging from the female form. Some subjects are accompanied by a cast of creatures - a cat in one drawing, and skeletal or bird-like forms in others. These companions do not stand alone, but intertwine with the female subjects' physiognomies, as if a winding narrative is self-contained within, or emerges from their bodies. Characteristic of the Tobias' oeuvre, these narratives appear ambiguous, perhaps even dream-like, awaiting the audience to fill in the details through their own narrative faculty.

Bitsy Knox

About the artists :

Gert & Uwe Tobias (born 1973 in Brasov, Romania) are twin brothers who have collaborated since 2001. Alongside solo exhibitions this year at Maureen Paley (London, UK) and at the Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens (Deurle, Belgium), they have recently presented solo exhibitions at Whitechapel Gallery in London (UK); Kunstmuseum Ravensburg (Ravensburg, Germany); and Team Gallery (New York, USA). The Tobias' currently live and work in Cologne, Germany.



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2262/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo382)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

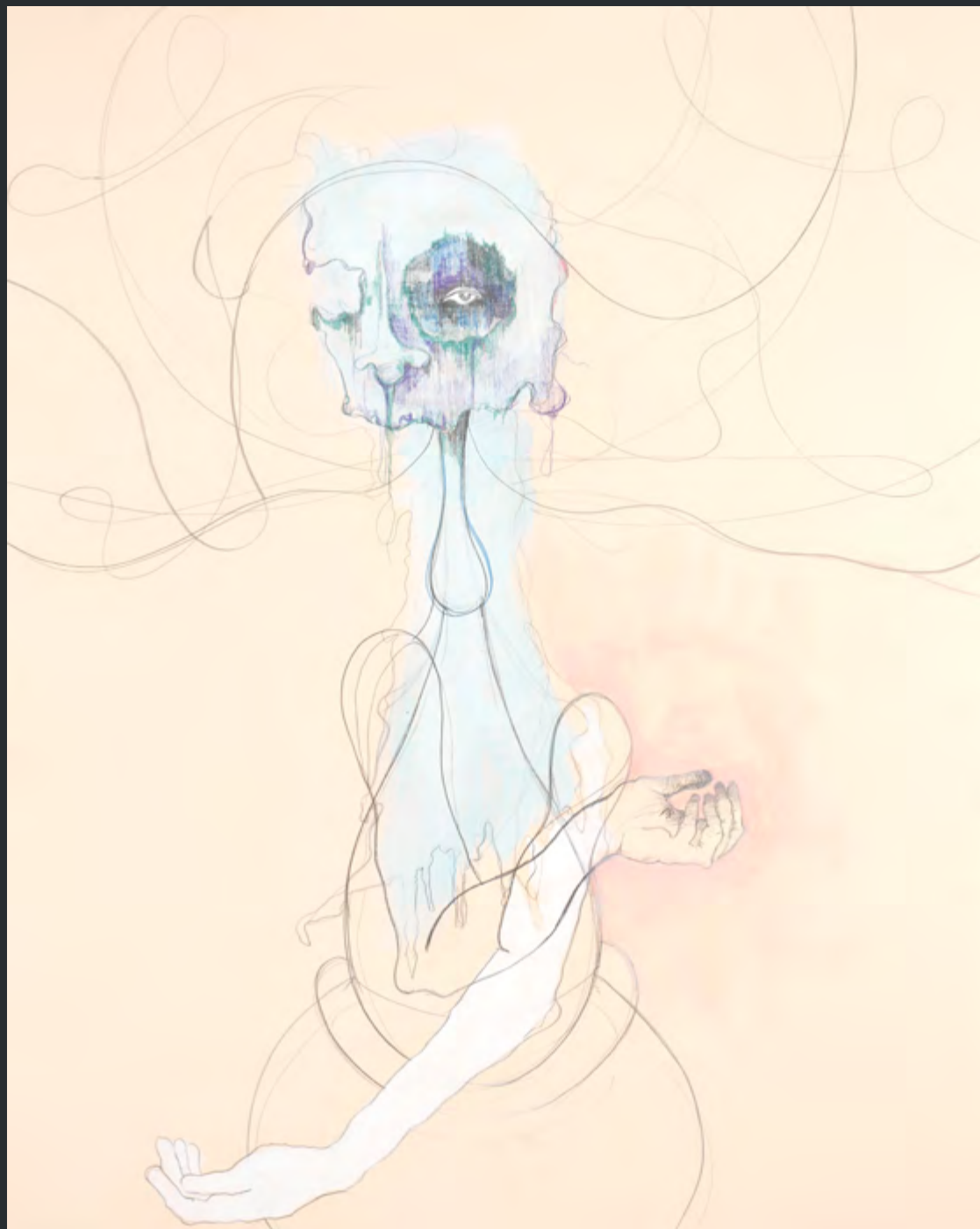
Untitled (GUT/Z 2263/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo383)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2264/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo384)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2265/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo385)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

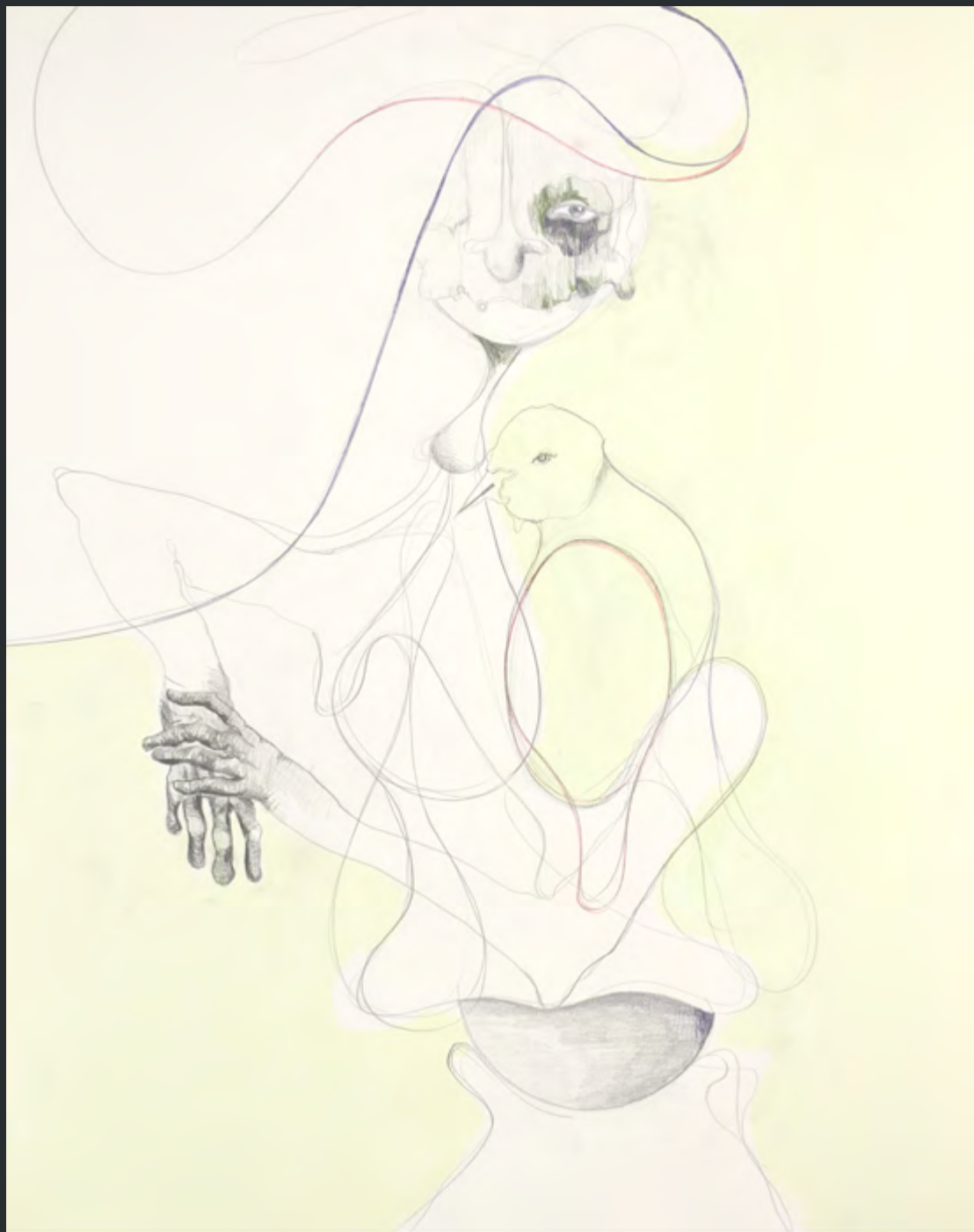
Untitled (GUT/Z 2266/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

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Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2268/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo388)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2269/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo389)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2270/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo390)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2271/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo391)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

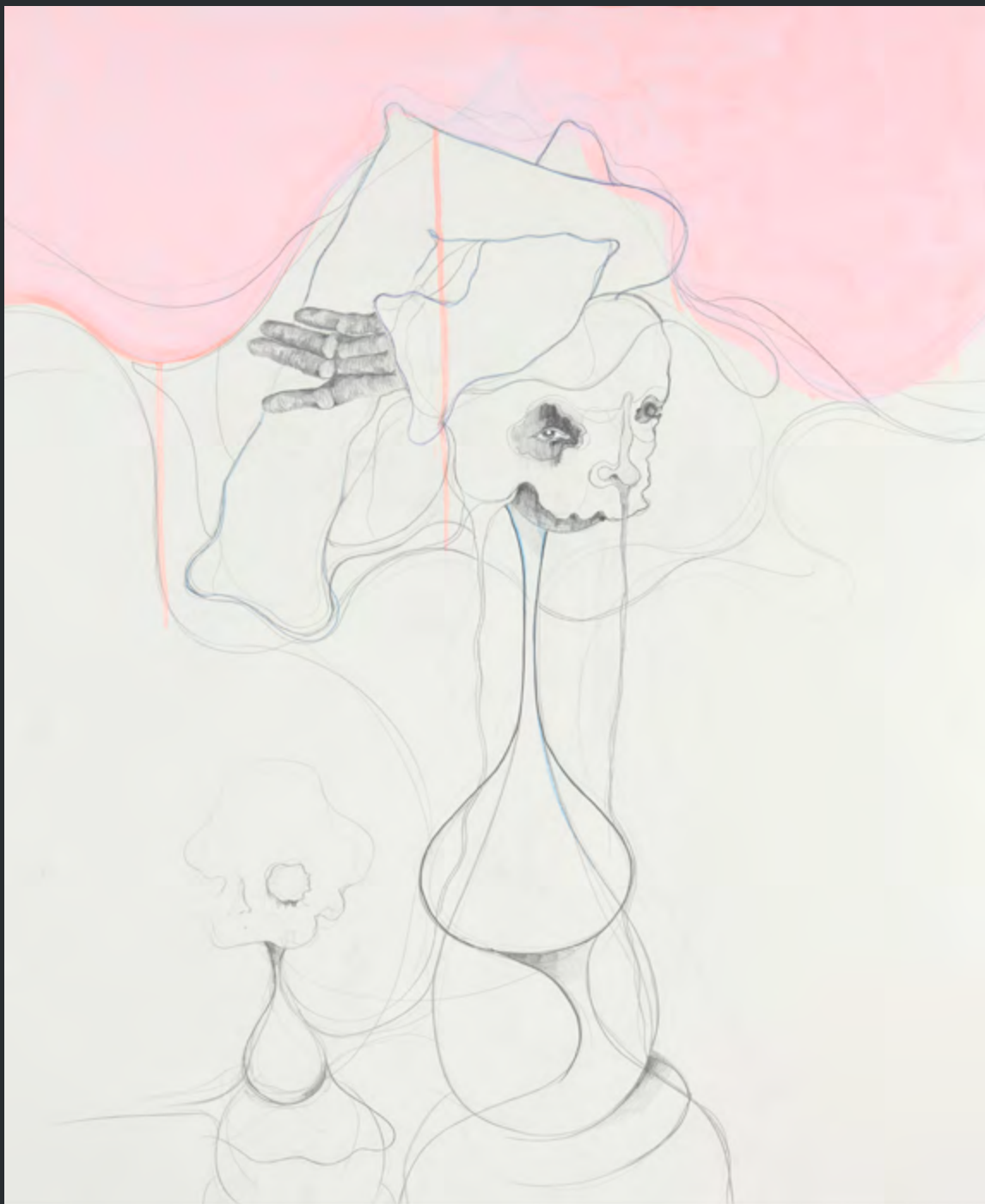
Untitled (GUT/Z 2272/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo392)



Gert & Uwe Tobias

Untitled (GUT/Z 2273/00), 2014

Mixed media on paper

102 x 81 cm ; 40 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (unframed)

138 x 117 cm ; 54.3 x 46.1 in (framed)

(GUTo393)

Gert & Uwe TOBIAS : biography

B. in 1973 (Kronstadt, Brasov, Romania)
Live and work in Köln.

EDUCATION

1998-2002

Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Braunschweig (Prof. Walter Dahn)

2004

Scholarship Peter Mertens, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2014

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium
Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium

2013

Gert & Uwe Tobias, Kunstmuseum Ravensburg, Ravensburg, Germany
Untitled '13, Team Gallery, New York, NY USA
Gert & Uwe Tobias, Whitechapel, London UK
Gert & Uwe Tobias, The Whitechapel Gallery at Windsor, Miami, FL USA

2012

FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Bruxelles, Belgium
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden Kupferstichkabinett, Dresden, Germany
Der Kunstverein, seit 1817, Hamburg, Germany

2011

Jorg Grimm, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Salon Schmitz, Köln Germany
Maureen Paley, London, UK
CFA Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany
GEM, Gemeentemuseum of contemporary Art, Den Haag, Netherlands

2010

Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany
Nottingham Contemporary, UK

Team Gallery, New York USA

Wilhelm Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein Germany

2009

Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover Germany
Franz Gertsch Museum, Burgdorf Germany
Zurück Nach Vorwärts Zu, Kunsthalle Wien, Projectspace, Wien Austria
Die Mappe, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels Belgium
Griffelkunstvereinigung Hamburg St Pauli, Hamburg Germany
Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia Italy
La Conservera, Ceuti/Murcia Spain
The Breeder, Athens Greece

2008

Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo Japan
Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn Germany
Der Osten im Norden des Westens, Team Gallery, New York USA

2007

Projects 86, Museum of Modern Art, New York USA
Utstillingsplakater, Bergen kunsthall, gallery No. 5, Bergen-Norway
If you build it, they will come, Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu – Romania
Wohin der Hase läuft, Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin Germany
Nichts brennt an, nichts kocht über, Kunstverein Heilbronn, Heilbronn Germany
Die Hora nimmt kein Ende, Sprüth Magers Projekte, Munich Germany

2006

N.S.,K.A.,C.G.,O.R.,F.Y., Galerie Michael Janssen, Cologne Germany
The Happy Lion, Los Angeles USA
Hammer Projects, UCLA Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles USA
Welcome, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels Belgium

2005

Roswitha meets Dionysos, The Breeder, Athens Greece
Servus, Galerie Eva Winkeler, Frankfurt a. M. Germany
Peter Mertes Stipendium 2004 (with Robert Elfgén), Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn Germany

2004

Come and see before the tourists will do - The mystery of Transylvania, Galerie Michael Janssen, Cologne Germany
In eigener Sache – oder noch etwas Kaffee noch etwas Milch, Kunstgruppe e.V., Cologne Germany

2003

Schnitt Ausstellungsraum, Köln Germany

Zurück nach vorwärts zu. (curated by Georg Elben), Kunstrasen Das Kuratorenfeld, Düsseldorf Germany

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2013

Ruhe-Störung. Streifzüge durch die Welten der Collage, Museum MARTa Herford, Herford, Germany

Back to Earth, Herbert Gerisch-Stiftung, Neumünster, Germany

My kind of Disneyland, Märkisches Museum Witten, Witten, Germany

NUR HIER. Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Andratx on Paper, Centro Cultural Andratx, Andratx / Mallorca, Spain

17 / 13, Kunstgruppe Kunstverein Köln, Cologne, Germany

Rien faire et laisser rire, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium

Neue Editionen, Galerie Sabine Knust, Munich, Germany

Donation Florence et Daniel Guerlain, Centre Pompidou Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

2012

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Summer Project, Villa Knokke, Knokke Heist, Belgium

Print/Out, MOMA, New York USA

Printin´, MoMA, New York USA

2011

Zaaien en Wieden, Cobra Museum, Amstelveen The Netherlands

DEAD_Lines - Der Tod in Kunst - Medien – Alltag, Von der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal Germany

DEAD_Lines - Der Tod in Kunst - Medien – Alltag, Galerie der Stadt Remscheid, Remscheid Germany

Gesamtkunstwerk: New Art From Germany, The Saatchi Gallery, London UK

Too Much, Kunstgruppe Kunstverein Köln Germany

2010

Looking Back / The Fifth White Columns Annual, White Columns, New York USA

Neues Rheinland. Die postironische Generation, Museum Schloß Morsbroich Germany

Hareng Saur: Ensor and Contemporary Art, SMAK, Gent Belgium

Collection Florence & Daniel Guerlain, dessins contemporains, Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie de Besançon France

Säen und Jäten, Städtische Galerie Bietigheim-Bissingen Germany

Schnittstelle Druck, Galerie der Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst / Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig (HGB), Leipzig Germany

Kunsthalle Athena, The Bar, Athens Greece

Permanent Trouble - Aktuelle Kunst aus der Sammlung Kopp München KOG, Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie, Regensburg

Säen und Jäten, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany

2009

Säen und Jäten, Städtische Galerie Ravensburg, Ravensburg Germany

State of Mind. Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin Italy

Dead_Lines, Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal Germania. Saatchi Gallery, London UK

Germania, Saatchi Gallery, London UK

2008

Wunderkammer, Museum of Modern Art, New York USA

50 Moons of Saturn, T2 – Triennale d'Arte Contemporanea, Torino Italy

In Holz geschnitten: Werke von Edvard Munch bis heute, Kunsthalle Emden, Emden Germany

Abstrakt, Museum Moderner Kunst Kärnten MMKK, Klagenfurt Austria

I bought the Brooklyn Bridge, Zehn Jahre Erwerbungen der Graphischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin. Kulturforum Potsdamer Platz, Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin Germany

2007

Idylle, Traum und Trugschluss. Galerie der Stadt Remscheid, Remscheid Germany

Sublime: Experiences and Perceptions in Contemporary Sculpture, Pilar Parra & Romeo, Madrid Spain

Makers and Modelers. Works in Ceramics, Gladstone Gallery, New York USA

Made in Germany. Aktuelle Kunst aus Deutschland, Kestnergesellschaft, Sprengel Museum und Kunstverein, Hannover Germany

50° 06' 36, 40' N; 8° 40' 42, 24' O (with Jürgen Krause) Galerie Eva Winkeler, Frankfurt a. M. Germany

Blood Meridian (curated by David Hunt), Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin Germany

Made in Germany. Aktuelle Kunst aus Deutschland, Sprengel Museum, Kunstverein und Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover Germany

Return to Form (with Thomas Kiesewetter, Tal R, Thomas Scheibitz), Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad Switzerland

2006

*M*A*S*H* (curated by David Hunt), Cattelston Advisor/Michael Sellinger, Miami USA

Tauschgeschäft, Galerie Eva Winkeler, Frankfurt a. M. Germany

Idylle. Traum und Trugschluss, Sammlung Falckenberg, Hamburg Germany

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, (with George Condo, Wim Delvoye, Kendell Geers, Mrzyk &

Morceau and Thomas Palme), Brussels Belgium

I love my country but I think we should start seeing other people (with Dr. Lakra, Julio Morales, Djordje Ozbolt, Muhammad Imran Qureshi), Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco USA

Boisterous!, Andersen-S Contemporary Art, Copenhagen Denmark

Motion on Paper, Ben Brown Fine Arts, London UK

The Monty Hall Problem (curated by Slater Bradley) Blum & Poe, Los Angeles USA

Loveless (with David Ratcliff, Lane Twitchell), Team Gallery, New York USA

2005

10 Years!, Galerie Michael Janssen, Cologne Germany

Künstlerbrüder – von den Dürers zu den Duchamps (curated by Dr. León Krempel), Haus der Kunst, Munich Germany

7 (with Thea Djordjadze, Robert Elfgén, Daniel Man, Gerda Scheepers, Martin Wöhr), Sprüth Magers Lee, London UK

dead/undead, Galerie Six Friedrich & Lisa Ungar, Munich Germany

La Beauté de l'Enfer, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels Belgium

Skulls, Images in the Face of Death. Schönewald Fine Arts, Xanten Germany

Der Kunst ihre Räume, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn Germany

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels Belgium

2004

Werke, die wir schon lange (wieder) einmal sehen wollten, Elisabeth Kaufmann Galerie, Zürich Switzerland

2003

Nur vom Feinsten, Galerie der HBK Braunschweig, Braunschweig Germany

Foreplay, Ritter/Zamet, London UK

Identität schreiben, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig Germany

Bis ans Ende der Welt, Kunstverein Konstanz, Konstanz Germany

Malerei II Ausstellung NullDrei, Galerie Christian Nagel, Cologne Germany

2002

X-Wohnungen, Theater der Welt, Duisburg Germany

2001

Neue Besen kehren gut, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg Germany

Enter, Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart Germany

Heimaten, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig Germany

Germania, Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena Italy

AWARDS

2007

Cologne Fine Art Preis, Bundesverband deutscher Galerie und Editionen Germany

HAP-Grieshaber-Preis der VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn Germany

Kunstpreis Deutscher Kunstverleger e.V., Frankfurt a. M. Germany

2004

Peter Mertes Stipendium, Bonn Germany