

Press release:

Time is Free

Curated by:

Jan Hoet and Ann Demeester

October 9 - November 9, 2002

Public opening reception:

Wednesday, October 9, 6-8 pm

Ellen Brusselmans (Belgium)

Jessica Diamond (USA)

Asta Gröeting (Germany)

Kenny Macleod (Scotland)

Manfred Pernice (Germany)

Ettore Spalletti (Italy)

Silke Schatz (Germany)

Theo van Rysselberghe (Belgium)



Silke Schatz, *Hellwacher Tagestraum, (Open Eyed Daydream)*, 2001, mixed media installation

The realm of the ordinary and the everyday has always exercised a particular fascination upon artists. During the 17th century, the Old Dutch Masters painted still lifes, or depictions of inanimate subjects such as books, flowers, tableware, fruit and musical instruments, which communicated subtle moral-allegorical messages. The protagonists of Pop Art used commonplace objects like comic strips, soup cans, road signs, and hamburgers as subject matter and thus celebrated post-war consumerism. The artists Martha Rosler and Chantal Ackerman – in works such as *Semiotics of the Kitchen* (1974) and *Saute ma ville* (1968) – used references to the domestic space as a means to criticize certain repressive tendencies in society.



Jessica Diamond, *Cloudburst with Nose and Questionmark*, 1998, acrylic wall painting

Nowadays we notice that the house and its interior contents, the props of ordinary life and the objects used on a daily basis are reference points for many artworks. The contemporary artists in this show use the "living space" as a metaphor for intimacy and memory, as a means to explore certain social rituals and relational systems. They do so while using different media – ranging from video, drawing, photography to installation and sculpture. Some of them insert narrative elements and hidden symbolic references; others focus mainly on the rendering of atmosphere and ambiente.

The curator of the exhibition, Jan Hoet, is widely known for his involvement with exhibitions outside of the US, including Documenta IX (1992). He is currently the Director of the Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK) in Ghent, Belgium and the acting Director of the Museum for Contemporary Art and Design (MARTa) in Herford, Germany. Ann Demeester is the Curator at MARTa.

A color brochure containing an essay by Jan Hoet will be available free of charge. Please contact apexart for further information. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11-6.

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