

NEDKO SOLAKOV
"Twelve Semipaintings Done in a Very Fast Way"
4th November - 23rd December 2005
Private View: Thursday 3rd November 2005

It will not be possible to show in advance any images from the forthcoming Nedko Solakov show, his third solo show at the gallery Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois.

This is because the artist has in fact set a self-imposed time limit, between 22nd October and 2nd November (just before the exhibition starts) to produce the 12 works.

The title of the exhibition, "Twelve Semipaintings Done in a Very Fast Way" humorously hints at the nature of the performance. Nedko Solakov did not even want to choose the number or size of his canvases: "surrprrrrise me", he told us. However he imposed one condition: that the format should conform to academic standards, "in the grreat trrradition of Frrrench painting".

Hence why members of the gallery found themselves in the shop Sennelier choosing blank canvases with no indication as to what these would eventually reveal. The selection became like a game: an imaginary dialogue between two series of formats, "landscape" and "portrait"... a proposition that enchanted our artist.

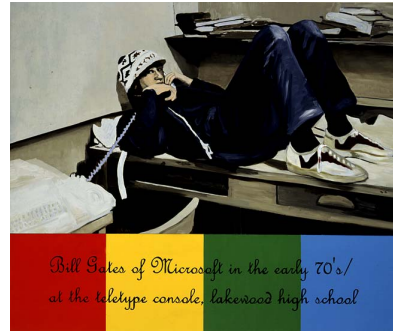
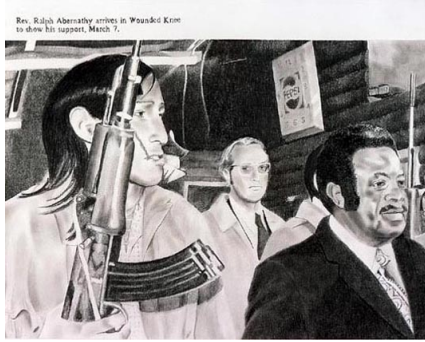
Irony, the reversal of roles and changing perspectives structure the work of Nedko Solakov. The artist creates his own worlds that he intentionally lets adapt so as to dismantle certain traditional ways of thinking and systems of representation.

For instance, for his work, "A Life (Black & White)", shown at the Venice Biennale of 2001 and at the Jeu de Paume in 2000, he employed two people, who one after the other, tirelessly, painted a room white and then black.

More recently, for his show "Leftovers" at the Kunsthaus, Zurich, he turned the exhibition space into a stockpile of his works, of different styles and from different periods. These works, as the name of the exhibition suggests, were all unsold works from galleries with whom Solakov has worked for a long time. This strange retrospective playfully challenged the established practices of the art market.

The story behind the exhibition told, all that waits to be seen are the works!

Nedko Solakov (born in Tchernov Briag, Bulgaria in 1957) has exhibited extensively internationally, including participations in the biennials in Istanbul (1992, 1995, 2005) and in Venice (1993, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003); São Paulo (1994); Gwanju (1997,2002) and Manifesta 1, Rotterdam. Recently he had solo shows at Museu do Chiado, Lisbon; Stichting De Appel, Amsterdam; CCA Kitakyushu, Japan; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona and Kunsthaus Zürich. In 2003-2005 a mid-career "12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey" was presented at Casino Luxembourg, Rooseum Malmö and O.K Centrum Linz.



Project Room: MATTHEW ANTEZZO
"Ex Post Facto"
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"Ex Post Facto" is Matthew Antezzo's sixth exhibition at the gallery. However, ten years have passed since the fifth exhibition...the artist has therefore devised an exhibition that is retrospective, retroactive; that looks back *ex post facto* over a decade of work. Matthew Antezzo is an American artist who was born in Connecticut in 1962. He appropriates photographs from 1970's contemporary art magazines, images from well-known films and more recently pictures found on the internet and he methodically reproduces them, along with the original caption, in black and white on large-scale canvases.

These clichéd images, of, for instance, celebrated conceptual artists or famous performers, as well as inventors of technical innovations, which are reproduced on the artist's canvas, refer to a personal cultural memory, but also more broadly to a collective unconscious penetrated by the influential power of the mass media.

Through his artistic practice, Matthew Antezzo revives images, sometimes several decades after they were first published. The choice of medium - painting - assures not only a certain authenticity, but also, above all, uniqueness.

By selecting and accumulating these images Matthew Antezzo creates a personal archive that arouses nostalgia in the viewer, and also prompts questioning - not only about the politics of production and consummation of images but also about authorship and the legitimacy of the works.

Next exhibition:
Gilles Barbier

13th January - 1st March 2006

Fairs:
The Armory Show, New York

10th March - 13th March 2006

The artists at the gallery:

BORIS ACHOUR (FR) - MATTHEW ANTEZZO (USA) - GILLES BARBIER (FR) - ALAIN BUBLEX (FR) - JULIEN BERTHIER (FR) - RICHARD JACKSON (USA) - MARTIN KERSELS (USA) - BARRY LE VA (USA) - SAVERIO LUCARIELLO (FR) - PAUL McCARTHY (USA) - JEFF MILLS (USA) - JOACHIM MOGARRA (FR) - NEDKO SOLAKOV (BUL) - TATIANA TROUVÉ (FR) - KEITH TYSON (GB) - JACQUES VILLEGLÉ (FR) - JULIA WACHTEL (USA) - OLAV WESTPHALEN (D) - VIRGINIE YASSEF (FR)

For any further information please contact
Marianne Le Métayer or Carole Wagemans
On 01 46 34 61 07 or by email at ggpnv@wanadoo.fr

