

PRESS RELEASE

Nik Nowak, Thomas Chapman
NUKES, SUN AND CARROTS

24/09 - 13/11/2010

Private view: 23rd September, Thursday, 6 - 9 pm

ReginaBerloga is pleased to announce NUKES, SUN AND CARROTS, a group show curated by Peter Lang featuring Nik Nowak (born 1981 in Mainz, Germany) and Thomas Chapman (born 1975 in San Diego, USA).

Nik Nowak studied at the Universität der Künste in Berlin, whereas Thomas Chapman's background is the multi-cultural Mix of the US, where he received his undergraduate training at the West coast (UCSB), and in the South (LSU), and his postgraduate training at the East Coast (Pratt Institute, NYC). Connected are the two artists by their interest in sound and music. As in surfing, one of Chapman's passions, they take materials and sounds in bypassing and restructure them into crazy collaborative sculptures. Their Collaborative work resemble hypothetical Exhibits, as if borrowed from Museums in Cartoons, they are placed like objects from an unreal world into exhibitions and on the streets. The 'Mobile Soundbooster' is an example of this. It has pointed corners and resists any smooth surface or fast consumption. Berlin is famous for its innovative clubs. Today the "Berghain" is the most famous club in the world (New York Times). It is located in the building of a former electricity plant from the 50's. Stalin-architecture is pumped up with electronic sounds and charged with glittering subculture. Top-Arists frequently show their works there. Berlin became a city where club- and high culture merges. Painters and sculptors are greatly influenced by this. Many also work as DJ's or use sounds in their sculptures.

Berlin continues to be the old and new interface between East and West. The shifting of the city, its traces and its new spaces and dynamics form a unique temporal and cultural swirl in Europe. The two artists shown at Regina Gallery in Moscow developed their works out of this atmosphere. They are artistic porters of this development, their works are among the most exciting new positions in this rapidly changing city.

Nik Nowak und Thomas Chapman concern themselves with our time, imaginary places, machines, religion and politics. Their theme is energy and conflict. Some aspects point to the dimensions between macro- and micro-cosmos, others have tight relation to soundspaces. All works are complex, work beyond their found, strict form and have nothing illustrative or literary narrative in them. Questions are being asked and through their shapes abstractly answered: Where do we come from, where do we go? What are our coordinates in space and time, which are our tools, and what is god?

Thomas Chapman's paintings cannot be imagined being by any European painter. His transnational genes are one fuel. Another is his own turbulent development in the US, one that can only happen in this melting of nations and cultures. In his paintings elements of the Californian hippy culture meet with magic Aztec Gods from Mexico, symbols of the Catholic Church collide with Surf Culture, discarded Brooklyn furniture textiles with frame constructions that represent daring mathematical creations, and in the end everything reminds us with the glamour of the elements of contemporary Icons, since also Russian lives in his genes. In this way Chapman combines elements of his own history, like the art of his Californian Grandmother and the mathematical talents of his late Grandfather, a jet engine engineer, into grandiose patchworks, that are tied together with irony.

Nik Nowak's disposition is of a much cooler temperature. His machines, modules and drawings always also remind us of military applications. The rocket penetrates and detonates into a wall. Tanks are the subjects for large-scale wall drawings. Tanks, track vehicles, rockets, mobile boosters, this is the artistic side of Nik Nowak. With these uncomfortable, scary vehicles Nik tries to help us understand, that appearance does not equal the content. He breaks this violence with a healthy portion of irony, which helps us to endure the increasing coldness of reality. His Boosters not only fire sounds into the world, they also look perfectly modern. Yes, what is an ipod, and where does an art sculpture start? Nik Nowak utilizes the communication strategies of an industrial product-oriented world and transfers those into his artwork.

The mental dimensions of the Works, an indispensable element of art, if it wants to survive, finds itself aside from its materialism in its form. In pointing beyond its content, this form represents a mystery aside from religion or ideology. The works in this exhibition hover in this area of immaterialism, glowing between the material that gives the work its body and the atmosphere created by it.

With NUKES, SUN AND CARROTS ReginaBerloga opens second season in which plans to expose both works of young artists, and interesting, unexpected projects of well-known painters.

The exhibition runs from 24 September till 13 November.

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