

JOHN ISAACS: GALERIE JUDIN BELOT, 26 AUGUST 2004

Gallery Judin Belot is pleased to announce "IF NOT NOW THEN WHEN" the first Swiss solo exhibition of London based artist John Isaacs.

Over the past ten years, through various media such as sculpture, photography, printing and video John Isaacs has observed and questioned the frenetic self-destructive and alienating insanity of the modern world using romantic and sometimes humorous images. The constant emotional thread that runs through his work is that of the romantic dreamer confronted by an unassailable reality. Often revealing uncomfortable and ugly truths about the world we live in, the impact of his work is immediate and direct, there is nothing hidden, it is in your face. For Isaacs the often bewilderingly disparate use of media's and aesthetic styles is more than simply a display of technical virtuosity, it is a necessary conceptual device to encourage a kind of multi perspective cubistic thinking, in which different interpretations of the same are revealed, and the possibility of truth becomes confused into a visually inclusive demographic.

Until recently Isaacs has worked in a highly representational way, using mutated and anatomized wax figures, landscapes and other direct imagery. For "IF NOT NOW THEN WHEN" Isaacs has created five new sculptures, a series of photographs, an "eye chart" and a new video. This slightly abstract and minimal new body of work centers on a grouping of five sculptures that collectively suggest a coherent whole from their individual elements; these new sculptures allude strongly to an emotionalized state way beyond their physical presence.

Earlier this year Isaacs spent some time filming in the oil fields of North America. The resulting video, shot in the widescreen format of an American Western, hypnotically reveals the mechanized landscape devoid of people. Though a present day technology, going through their melancholy cycle, the oil pumps look antiquated; giant metronomes rhythmically beating out the passing of time, working museum exhibits to the bygone age of steam, a medieval backdrop for a crazed Don Quixote to do battle. This film represents the oilfields as somewhere to consider not politically but anthropologically, as yet another part of our lives, another dirty facet to the world shaped before us, which we are powerless to change, for it is the very fabric of our lives, and in this we are one and the same.

John Isaacs is currently participating in the group exhibitions "Mike Kelly: Das Unheimliche" Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Ludwig Wien (17.07 – 31.10.04), "Die Zehn Gebote" Eine Kunstaussstellung des Deutschen Hygiene - Museums, Dresden (19.06 – 05.12.04), "L'intime, le collectionneur derriere la porte", La Maison Rouge, Paris (05.06. – 26.10.04) and "Animals" Haunch of Venison London (22.06 – 11.09.04)