

ANDREA BÜTTNER

7 MARCH – 13 APRIL

For her first solo show at Hollybush Gardens, Andrea Büttner presents woodcuts, screen-prints, a sound piece, and video displayed in a total environment. Several leitmotifs run through the exhibition, but perhaps most prominent is the idea and sentiment of shame. Büttner sees this as integral to the process of production and reception of art.

Little Works is a video piece set in a closed order of Carmelite nuns in Notting Hill, London. Büttner has handed over her camera to the nuns who have captured their rituals of making what they call 'little works', a term that is derived from the French *petit travaux*. Little Works culminates in a private view of the nun's annual exhibition, which in accordance with their values, can only be for themselves.

Other works in the show include a sound piece. Büttner reads quotes connected with shame from A Diary (from the year 1982) by Dieter Roth. The work points to the act of appropriation – the humility expressed by Roth becoming embodied by the voice of the artist. This scholastic act of copying also points to an act of devotion much in the same way that musicians are able to cover songs they admire, or interpret the music of famous composers.

On the floor along one of the walls is a clay sculpture. This is Büttner's first attempt at working on this scale with clay, the experiment is open ended – the nature of the clay leaving it exposed to changes brought by time. This work progresses a statement from an earlier wood cut – I want to let the work fall down. This desire has been taken one step further and turned into a performative sculpture.

All these works are harbored by what Büttner calls a 'shit space' or 'raumkoerper' (spatial body), – during the installation process Büttner paints the walls with brown paint – as high as her raised arm – around the gallery walls. On a symbolic level the brown raises a number of obvious connotations; shit, chocolate and the brown worn by the Franciscan order. However, there is perhaps a more immediate impulse at play, the desire to mark space and claim the gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

Andrea Büttner lives and works in Frankfurt and London. Recent exhibitions from 2007 include a solo show at Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Overtake – The Reinterpretation of Modern Art at Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Pensée Sauvage – On Freedom at Frankfurter Kunstverein/ Ursula Blickle Stiftung, Species of Spaces and Other Pieces at Hollybush Gardens and Roth Ecke at The Return, Goethe Institute, Dublin (solo).

GALLERY OPEN
WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY
12 – 6 PM

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