

JONATHAN MEESE

PATTY CHANG

FROM APRIL 8 UNTIL MAY 27, 2001

Tues.-Fri. 2-6 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2-5 p.m., Thursday evenings 8-10 p.m.

Jonathan Meese

Der Balthysaal (The Balthys Room), 2001

Jonathan Meese lives and works in Berlin. In a society that suffers from an overload of images and media, Jonathan Meese (among others) digs through a stock of images already in order to find what he needs. The problem for Meese, or rather what makes his work ambiguous, is his interest in the "rubbish bins" of our image-consumer society. His idea is to *"borrow concepts others have rid themselves of"* (Veit Loers). He makes use of a waste which is like *"the pipe organ as a metaphysical and hypophysical machine, spitting blood from its lungs, its totalitarian strains evoking Wagner, Bruckner and Ennio Morricone"* (Veit Loers).

Jonathan Meese finds his "recycled material" in films, magazines, books, or paintings which he seeks in flea markets and second hand shops. He absorbs everything which comes upon him, combining it with a highly characteristic representation of himself that he stages to fine-tune his statement. Ceaselessly, he redevelops his own imagery, using *tableaux vivants* in his performances and revisiting the idiom of old films.

In *Der Balthysaal !* (The Balthys Room), Meese sets up a private, a personal space, "loaded" in every sense of the word, in which we are both guest and voyeur, a space that gives rise to an internal language translated into a single image consisting of countless images, texts and objects. At the opening of the show, Jonathan Meese will "inhabit" this room.

1^{er} étage

Patty Chang

Shaved (at a loss), video 1998; *Fountain*, video, 1999; *Bedside*, video, 2001; *The extension of Nothing*, video, 2001; *Action 1*, photo, 2001; *Action 2*, photo, 2001; *Tender is the Night*, performance, 2001

Patty Chang lives and works in New York. Her performances, installations and videos focus on her body which she uses as a medium to transport "a disjointed memory". Her performances highlight the inevitable character of the body and its endurance. *"A lot of my performances come from taking memories and mixing them"*.

For her, the body is where memory, method and object(s) meet. She expects it to give rise to a new meaning, beyond technology – or against it. Patty Chang's performances go through the experience of endurance, sometimes a painful one, in what art critic RoseLee Goldberg has called a "wordless scream".

New York art gallery owner Jack Tilton speaks of "dramatization of memory", an approach in which every piece or performance attempts to construct an image rich enough to contain and embrace images of the past and visions of the future.

"The performances are about the 'dramatization of memory' and each piece entails constructing an image that is rich enough to contain and to hold images from the past for recall in the future". Memory has become intersections for creating new meaning. Many pieces focus on anticipation as the embracing of anxiety. The performances often use physical exertion and restraint as a way to deal with struggle, failure and the increasing sense of loss of the body in the face of technology."

Patty Chang does this by combining performance, with its social role-playing, and photography, with its motionless and staged aspects (*"Mrs. Chang combines the social role-playing side of performance art and set-up photography (think Cindy Sherman) with its more abstract, endurance-oriented side (now think Chris Burden)"*).

Through her work, Patty Chang reminds us of our human condition, with its part of suffering and love, with our phantasms, with the body and its evolution – and omnipresent memory.

During the show, **La Cuisine** will be open every Thursday evening. Information and reservations : 026 323 23 51

Thursday 17 Mai at 8 p.m. : Guided visit of the exhibition with Michel Ritter, director of FRI-ART

Atelier de créativité pour enfants : Pacplanet for Kids, Sunday Mai 6 at 14:30 p.m.

Coming exhibition : Harmony Korine - David Lamelas, from June 17 until August 12, Opening Saturday June 16 at 5 p.m.