

MONDEJAR GALLERY

Zentralstrasse 18, 8003 Zurich Switzerland
Tel. +41 43 542 6283 Mobile + 41 76 577 0854
info@mondejargallery.com www.mondejargallery.com
Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri 16-19, Sat 14-18 Uhr or by appointment

PRESS RELEASE

18 March – 13 May 2010

We like you

GBC – Gebrüder Bühler
Collaborative Paintings of
Andreas Bühler & Alexander Bühler

Opening reception: Thursday, 18 March 2010 at
18h00

The artists will be present.



The exhibition entitled *We like you* at Mondejar Gallery, Zürich, is a presentation of joint works by brothers Andreas (b. 1963) and Alexander (b. 1977) Bühler, collectively known as Gbc. The brothers grew up in Niederwil, St. Gallen and have since pursued discrete artistic practices. Andreas is now based in Zürich, and Alexander between Berlin, Corcapolo and Japan, though both continue to be influenced by extensive travel.

14 years separate the pair, who took different routes to their current practises, Andreas first graduating in physics from the ETH Zürich, while Alexander undertook a BA at Chelsea College of Art. Alexander's work has latterly taken the form of simple, geometric paintings and small sculptural objects; Andreas also paints, as well as creating large installation pieces. The paintings that make up *We like you* were created between 2007 and mid 2009, at a time when both were living in Berlin. In the German capital, where decay and creation are equally present, the brothers had an open field upon which their two personalities could meet: Alexander, the younger, restless and optimistic brother; Andreas, the experienced, sceptical yet equally passionate older sibling. Here they made a conceptual break from their existing practise and sought to make painting in which the hand of neither could be detected; instead it is the work of a joint identity.

The paintings emerged from time spent together in a studio, with ongoing conversations and sketching, an almost meditative process to build up momentum from which a first mark on canvas would come forth. They used large canvases that allowed space for more than one graphic idea to be pursued. Working in oil, a medium that allows time for consideration, undoing and layering, the method was half-automatic; first gestures had to be modest, not laying claim to the whole surface, just initiating the image and leaving room for manoeuvre. After the first move followed discussion (rarely directly relating to what they were doing) and experimentation, to the point where they recognised their endeavours as a complete painting and marked it with their stamp, Gbc.

The resulting works are poised between figuration and abstraction. The subjects were not transposed directly, but were ideas distilled by thought and time, and now appear as fragments on the canvas. A sail cuts across the work *N5*, (2007) close to the eye, as if the work were a landscape from a vaguely remembered dream; in other works, such as *Intro*, (2008) the elements have been placed in the centre of the canvas, ripped from their bearings in the imagination to be part of a fresh re-imagining orchestrated by the brothers. Some works share an aesthetic of Pop artists of the 1960s, such as David Hockney, others are more akin to paintings by artists recognised now as contemporary, like Alex Katz or Luc Tuymans. Similarities lie in an optimistic light that bathes the canvases, cleansing the image. This is not merely stylistic, but is the result of a determination not to make loud works; the paintings require time to be seen, revealing their subtleties only little by little. But one signature style cannot easily be discerned from this group of works; they are testament to a moment when the brothers first deliberately combined their efforts. Trial and error were part of a process in which they acted while looking, metaphorically speaking, from the corners of their eyes, in order not to dominate or thwart the potential of their enterprise. The exhibition *We like you* presents shared genes and different experiences combined on canvas; the brothers are now developing a second group of works, which build on this initial stage. These works will be honed and crafted, but will they have the raw excitement of the first, uncharted meeting of minds?

Aoife Rosenmeyer
March 2010

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ARTISTS PROFILE

alexander bühler (b.1977), zürich, switzerland
lives and works in corcapolo, berlin and tokyo

education

2003 BA(hons) painting, chelsea college of art, london

residencies

2009 cca research program, 2009/2010, kitakyushu, japan
2007 daniel shand, residency project, london

one-person exhibitions

2010 'We like you', Gbc - gebrüder bühler at mondejar gallery, zürich
2008 'London, Berlin (2005-7)', studio 1.1, london
2008 'Schnitzeljagt - Paperchase', curated by lisa bosse, berlin
2005 Wagdas, london

group exhibitions

2010 Ogura gallery, cca, kitakyushu, japan
2007 'Abstract Continuous', studio1.1, london
2005 Zoo Art Fair, with studio1.1, london

diversia

2008 'In the light of', collaborative project with schalter, berlin

publication

2010 'Omote Ura', catalogue residency, kitakyushu, japan
2008 'London, Berlin (2005-7)', artist book, with interview by sarah zürcher 2008, ed.of 300, berlin
2005 'One', artist book, signed ed. of 100, london

bibliography

2009 'Look out for', plastique magazine (uk), spring-summer 09, s.131
2008 Spur magazine (japan), p.69, april 08
2008 'Darwins Sell-Out', issue-one magazine (uk), fall 07/08 nr.004, march 08
2008 Artnet.de digest, artnet, 14 february 08
2008 'Die Karawanne zieht nach', der tagesspiegel (d), 25 januar 08

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andreas bühler (b.1963) zürich, switzerland

one-person exhibitions

2010 'We like you', Gbc - gebrüder bühler at mondejar gallery, zürich
2008 'Dance Table', stall 6 gessnerallee zürich, | curator:nadja baldini
2001 'AUSGANG', helmhaus zürich | curator:oliver kielmayer
1999 'strolling to message-salon', message-salon zürich | curator:esther eppstein

group exhibitions

2003 K3, opening exhibition, zürich
2002 Swiss Art Awards exhibition, basel
1999 HOTEL, «Faltenwürfe» | curator:oliver kielmayer
1998 contributor to 'First Contact', Videoinstallation by Bessie Nager, shown: «Freie Sicht aufs Mittelmeer», kunsthaus zürich & schirn kunsthalle frankfurt

videos

'untitled (swimmer)', shown: stadtgalerie bern, «poolposition», bern 1999;
poste d'art contemporain, «entracte» ,fribourg 1999

publication

AUSGANG, artistbook | published by helmhaus zürich 2001

diversia

wallpainting,2004 genossenschaft platten 64, zürich
sound studio design with wallpainting, 2004, amriswil,st.gallen