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GALERIE

CURIOUS

New Sculptures & Objects

13 July – 8 September, 2007

Opening hours:
Tu.- Sa. 12-6 p.m.

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The works of New York artist **Tony Conway** combine the media of photography, painting, and sculpture. On several layers of plexiglass held together by steel frames digital photographs, pale color hues and graphite drawings are stacked on top of each other to create a subtly sculptural impression of ephemeral shapes. ■ **Rainer Fetting's** international renown is owed mainly to his paintings, which are marked by neo-expressionist painterly expression with bold gestural brushstrokes. But in the realm of sculpture he has also developed a very own formal language. It is particularly apparent in his best known work, the statue of the late German chancellor Willy Brandt. ■ The wooden sculptures created by the artist **KEHL** since 2001 in addition to his painterly and graphical work are entitled Volkskunst (folk art). They represent a synthesis of traditional artisanship from the German Erzgebirge region and the phantasmagorias of urban life. He thus manages to employ features of German folk craft in order to explore the construction of identity in contemporary cultural and social settings.

■ The sculptures of internationally active Dutch artist **Hans van Meeuwen** are characterized by an ironic, tongue-in-cheek view of objects and parts of objects. In their uncommon view of common objects his works exhibit an off-beat and at times even slyly devious humor that subverts our usual associations and patterns of perception. ■ The sculptures of the Italian artist **Antonio Riello** combine the worlds of modern warfare with that of the fine arts. The exhibition presents a model of a historical submarine, painted with a classical-baroque Venetian fresco, in a bottle. ■ Since 1983 New York-based artist **Stefan Roloff** has combined the artistic potential of computer technology with his work as a painter. Today he is considered one of the groundbreaking pioneers in this area. The installation "Life in the Death Strip" throws a critical light on some of the forces (power, coercion, surveillance, retreat into the safety of a bourgeois life) that have been at work in a period of the most recent German history. ■ Viennese artist **Deborah Sengl**, trained biologist and artist, is best known through the hybrid animals of her series „Ertarnungen“ (Camouflage). In these the hunter animal assumes the form of its prey, thus playing on notions of camouflage and dissimulation, mask and simulacrum. In her series "Breed Yourself Luxury" she applies the trademarks of luxury companies complete with cutting lines directly on animal preparations, thus in a disconcerting fashion combining the artificial world of luxury consumption with that of an exploited nature. ■ The Japanese artist **Yukiko Terada** creates permeable and multilayered objects from clothing, which she regards as a person's second skin. She thus illustrates in a compelling fashion the manifold and fluid interactions taking place between man and his natural and cultural environment. ■ **Patricia Waller** has been working for many years on her crochet objects, exploring a host of unlikely and unexpected themes. Her objects are so refreshingly unconventional and disrespectful that they are hard to resist. By disguising highly explosive topics in homely harmlessness she shrewdly out-tricks our viewing habits by means of the utter inappropriateness of material to subject matter. ■ In his ironic series of „Underpants“ the Chinese artist **Wang Zhiyuan** explores the hidden downsides of the unfettered economic and industrial growth of his home country, as well as its effects on the structure and the self-conception of the society he lives in.

EXHIBIT
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NOTES

Tony Conway

Rainer Fetting

KEHL

Hans van Meeuwen

Antonio Riello

Stefan Roloff

Deborah Sengl

Yukiko Terada

Patricia Waller

Wang Zhiyuan

The title *CURIOUS* plays with the manifold meanings of the word. It combines the curiosity and thirst for knowledge with the rare and the rarified, the wonderful and the strange. It carries a conscious reference to the historical *Wunderkammern*, those collections that assembled precious objects from the arts, nature, and science.