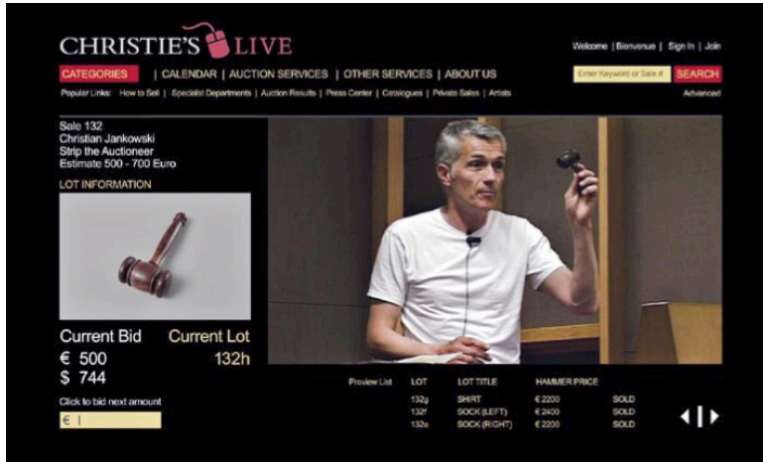


CHRISTIAN JANKOWSKI
March 4 – March 27, 2010
Opening Reception: March 4, 6-8 pm



Friedrich Petzel Gallery is pleased to announce *Strip the Auctioneer*, the first solo exhibition at the gallery of Berlin based Christian Jankowski.

The art of the auction is center to Jankowski's installation *Strip the Auctioneer*. The gallery space, set in auction-house colors, contains sculpture, photographs and a video connected to a live auction that was orchestrated by Jankowski in May of 2009. The action takes place at Christie's auction house in Amsterdam and incorporates the auctioneer, Amo Verkade. Verkade bids his garment piece by piece down to his hammer. He strips himself of his suit, baring and transforming those parcels of clothing into objects of desire.

Jankowski's auction-house burlesque seduces the public at first sight with sharp humor while at the same time questions the relationship between the economic and the symbolic value of art. It emphasizes the ambiguity of where exactly meaning and value resides. The distinction between fiction and reality highlights the inherent theatrical mechanics of the sales process, creating a live interaction of the auction and its players.

Strip the Auctioneer was part of *Take the Money and Run*, a project that combined an exhibition at de Appel arts centre with an auction at Christie's Amsterdam (May 2009).

Jankowski lives and works in Berlin and New York and holds a professorship in Stuttgart. His videos, films, and installations have been exhibited internationally such as Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2009) Kunstraum Innsbruck (2009), Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2008), Miami Art Museum (2007), MIT List Visual Art Center (2005), Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel (2003), the 48th Venice Biennale, as well as the 2002 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art. In 2010 he will be part of the upcoming Taipei Biennial and Sidney Biennial.

A catalogue published by Walter Koenig will accompany the exhibition.

This exhibition will be on view from March 4 through March 27, 2010 with an opening reception on Thursday, March 4th from 6-8 pm. Friedrich Petzel Gallery is located at 535 West 22nd Street New York, NY, 10011. For more information, please contact the gallery at (212) 680 9467 or info@petzel.com