

FEURIG59
Residence program for artists in Berlin

ERIC WESLEY

Ship Shape Shit Shelf and the Empfang Box

OPENING 27 JUNE 2008 h. 18.30

FEURIG59 STUDIO LUIGI DE SIMONE
59 FEURIG STR BERLIN 10827 (SCHONEBERG)
U-BAHN KLEISTPARK

Ordinary behavior becomes performance through the act of dining or shopping. The nature of the creative act is turned on its ear as one is asked to consider accepting such rudimentary means for survival as fine art. As a whole the project called "Empfang Box", in whichever form it takes, is reactionary while abstract, psychotic yet calculated.

The "Empfang Box" is an approximately 3 meter square room in which ordinary receipts, such as one would receive for groceries, are turned into works of art. Over-scaled documents look down on the viewer presenting themselves as both landscape and portrait, telling a story or passing on a diagrammatic essence. The process in which the transformation from document to art (and back again) takes place is not clear as an observer witnesses only a handful of clues though the quarter-inch gap around the room's door; a projector, a table, chairs. Some days the table has food on it, giving a hint at something deeper at work, the actual material listed on both document and art takes form in the real. Issues in biology surface, helped along by a creamy/bile tinted color motif. Some receipts, obviously intentionally mistranslated as "empfangs", depict diners or other such outings, others relate to extracurricular activities or work.

To understand what is going on here it is critical to realize that this work is the result, however indirect, of an artist's placement in an environment. Encountering, consuming, processing and excreting culture takes physical form and representation. From September 14th to October 24th the artist recorded all financial transactions, mostly in the form of printed receipts while at residency in Berlin. Next, the artist adapted these documents to an inappropriate size and scale for presentation to the public. This act comments on the political, social, financial, and ethical fundamentals of the notion of "transaction" in general. This concept is widened with consideration of the individual's relationship to the microcosm of the Art world, specifically dealing with the framework of "the residency". At the same time the project is light hearted, turning more towards comedy and entertainment than meaning or formalism. In the end, the work involves itself with completing a cycle of consumption, metaphorically selling documentation as paintings, construction as sculpture and function as performance.

The FEURIG 59 residence program for artists arises from an idea by the artist Luigi De Simone and Alessandro Pardossi. Luigi De Simone, has lived and worked in Berlin for several years now. It is his home-studio that will host the activities of FEURIG 59. Alessandro Pardossi is based in Pisa, Italy. His role as both promoter and supporter of the arts, in relation to the project FEURIG59, is that of a producer. Driven by an attraction and desire to know and make known the inner and intimate words found in artistic production. Starting from a reflection on the present importance of Berlin as an active center for contemporary art, it is FEURIG 59's intent to host and support international artists for their period of residence. The project represents an Italian reflection on international art in what is today the city of choice for artists, critics, and exhibition curators, who see it as an ideal location for research and sharing their work experience. This decision to set up a private artist residence program was prompted by a wish to participate in Berlin's creative dynamism. Individual artist residences are not granted upon submission of an application form, but by direct call. It is individual exhibition curators nominated by the association who select the artists. The curator in charge is Gigiotto Del Vecchio, one of the promoters of the project. Del Vecchio invited the English artist Michael Dean, who has been at Feurig Strasse 59 from May 1. Each invited artist will be hosted for a period of about two months during which he or she will create a number of works in view of an exhibition. The project's intention are to create a new, culturally active resource for contemporary art and its international diffusion, whereby artists from various nations will be able to set up a fruitful exchange with the city from the springboard of this unique and ever changing stage.

FEURIG59 LUIGI DE SIMONE STUDIO BERLIN
ph.: 0152 04877787
ph.: +49 (0) 30 78954588
e mail: luigides@gmail.com
www.feurig59.com