

PRESS RELEASE

Jonathan Meese

"CASINOZ BABYMETABOLISMN" (Put DR. NO'S MONEY in your mouth, Baby)

Private View 15 January

16 January – 21 February 2009

Stuart Shave is proud to present the third solo show of German artist, Jonathan Meese at Modern Art.

Meese has risen to acclaim and notoriety over the last decade through his epic scale paintings, bronze sculptures and highly physical trance-like performances.

Meese's very personal performance and artworks often channel and reference violent dictatorial figures, seeking to make nonsense of their atrocious histories and via this deconstruction, make fresh sense of their actions, expressing the artist's wish to "bring up everything again through dirt".

Often, the manner in which this is carried out is shocking and cathartic, as imagery of Swastikas, genitalia and monstrous faces converge in vast paintings and towering bronzes, in front of which the artist signs off with a Nazi salute. In the same way, themes as wide ranging as the lives of Richard Wagner, Hitler and the Marquis de Sade jostle up with cinematic personalities such as Scarlett Johansson, Noel Coward, Marlene Dietrich and Dr. No and are amalgamated in the mythological construction of Meese's own persona within his works.

"CASINOZ BABYMETABOLISMN" (Put DR. NO'S MONEY in your mouth, Baby) continues the artist's pre-occupation with metabolism as both a consuming power and producer of energy. This particular exhibition hints at the consumptive properties of the surrounding economic market.

The show features a unique new body of work, including large-scale paintings on black canvas and a series of bronze sculpture. Giant triptychs represent Meese's current fascinations: ripped up sex dolls, original German banknotes from the recession of the 1930's, magazine images of Johansson, motifs of the Iron Cross, soft toys and underwear. These are held down by swathes of transparent acrylic that give the work a moving, fluid notion.

Throughout the work of Jonathan Meese, there exists a hopeful re-ordering through chaos, where the artist proposes a very particular, personal world that dedicates itself to the "revolution of art". Meese's enthusiastic role as "Art Dictator" employs the language and intensity of despotism, while proposing something much more pure, optimistic, naive even. Through this, Meese's unaffected innocence is transformed into an insistent production.

For further information or images, please contact Andrew Cannon at Stuart Shave / Modern Art (andrew@modernart.net)

Visitor Information:

ADDRESS: 23-25 Eastcastle Street, London, W1W 8DF

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm

ADMISSION: Free

NEAREST TUBE: Oxford Circus

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Jonathan Meese
DIE SAALHAUTYNG der mickrigen REALITÄT
(DIKTATYR der KUNST de PYPP)
2008
oil and mixed media on canvas
270x540 cm, 106.3x212.6 ins
3 panels 270 x 180cm
MA-MEESJ-00123

Courtesy of Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London
and Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin



Jonathan Meese
Elephant Man traugt von Dir
2007
bronze
69x55x35 cm, 27.2x21.7x13.8 ins plinth size 110 x 55 x 35cm
2 of 3, +1 AP
MA-MEESJ-00121

Courtesy of Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London
and Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin



Jonathan Meese
Untitled
2008
oil and mixed media on canvas
210x280 cm, 82.7x110.2 ins
2 panels 210 x 140cm
MA-MEESJ-00124

Courtesy of Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London
and Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin