

## MICHELE DI MENNA OOZE GENERATOR

OPENING FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 2012, 6-9 PM  
PERFORMANCE ON FRIDAY, 27 APRIL, 8 PM  
EXHIBITION 28 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2012

Michele Di Menna's work performs a realization of a production; Performance, sculpture, text, collage, video and sound installation circle around each other, forming new possibilities within themselves. It is in Michele Di Menna's performances, during which all these components are employed, that one complete picture is constructed. The installation combines the movement, drama and color of the prior action, and allows us to imagine what is no longer present. In the performance Michele Di Menna and her friend are guided by constant soundtrack, video, and light milieu that assist the transformation of objects materializing into an installation.

The protagonist of her new exhibition *Ooze Generator* at Galerie Kamm is mud. In Michele Di Menna's mode of creating, the new exhibition grows from her former installations *a few deep moments*, which was on display at Badischer Kunstverein and *a few deep moments in the green room* at Based in Berlin in 2011. In this installation, where mud has already been a motif, the central idea circled around the act of „digging in mud“ as an action of searching, looking deeply into something, and catching. In her new work Michele Di Menna focuses on the process when mud solidifies and becomes form.

Entering the gallery space, the visitor is being confronted with stacked cylinders. A video “oozes” out of the cylinders different cuts and openings finding its way to the ceiling: In infinite repetition, from free flowing dark muddy fluid, the slimy liquid moves more slowly oozing thickly into form and becoming a mask on a face. The masked face itself works as a transformer between two different textural states of the material as the mud dries and more solid forms appear. Inspired by the idea of a Spa which promises the visitor to feel a new, regenerated and rejuvenated after entering its metamorphic cocoon, Michele Di Menna cites stagings of a wellness site that promise a beneficial and productive atmosphere. Thus, the main exhibition space is filled by sound and illuminated by colored lights spotlighting stacked objects that have been used as props and reassigned as sculptures in the performance.

In several series of collages Michele Di Menna visualizes the movement of a treatment. Bodies, body parts and faces covered with mud and wigs exist as portraits of undeveloped characters in the transformation stage. The muddy fluid faces and bodies emphasize their undeveloped and un-solidified state as subjects.