

**FRIEZE ART FAIR 2009**

**THE WAY OF THE UNKNOWN REMAINS MICHELE DI MENNA / BERND RIBBECK**

The proposal for the Frieze Art Fair is a combination of “Where everything is crumbling...”, an installation by Michele Di Menna, with new images by Bernd Ribbeck.

Both artists conduct a cosmology, which lies beyond the spiritual. Their aim is not to design a new world or universe, but rather to reveal potential worlds. In this endeavour, the artists invariably remain present as makers. With technical finesse, a precise selection of form, color, and everyday materials such as paper-mâché (Di Menna) or ball point pen (Ribbeck), cosmology becomes understood as a human invention and construct.

In an interplay of sculpture, text, collage, costume, film, sound and performance, Michele Di Menna stages a cosmos ruled outside of reason, based on the assumption of life being characterized by the presence of the magical amidst the quotidian. In her three part installation “Where everything is crumbling...” she focuses on frames, being gates at the same time, which appear as metaphors of possible transformations according to individual law.

Bernd Ribbeck’s small format drawings and works on paper recall the use of form employed by early 20th century abstraction, yet simultaneously withdraw from any such determination due to their immanent, hermetic structures. The artist develops distinct, layered image-spaces out of elementary geometrical structures, through which a spatial depth appears leading into other potential worlds.

In combining these artists, the playful and the sincere pursue the path to the unknown together – hand in hand and with a wink.