

Alexander Wolff
April 19th - June 10th 2011

The gallery Studio Sandra Recio is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Switzerland of the German artist Alexander Wolff.

The exhibition consists of two new series of works, each dealing in different ways with the possibilities of painting as a means for connecting matters of biography, representation and context through material and form. Through this practice, an unique pictorial vocabulary emerges through a formal dialogue between the artist and the local situation.

For the first series of works, the artist brings into play a technique that was previously applied solely in his wallpaintings: the use of papier collé as painterly material. A set of frottages, made on fabric from old curtains in the artist's childhood home in Southern Germany, serves as starting point for the new pictures, taking their form from the bronze entrance door, made in 1958. The house has recently been abandoned by the family, making these traces time-stamped material evidence of a biographical period. These frottaged forms become windows to the process of painting carried out during the artist's stay in Geneva. Printed-out images from the artist's studio and temporary habitations in the city as well as environmental impressions of Geneva focus attention on the circumstances of artistic production, as well as upon the collaboration of biography and context in artistic production and the resulting amalgam of ornamental motifs and textures.

The second series of works, called "double frames", juxtaposes a collection of decorative plastic picture frames that the artist purchased at 99cent stores in Los Angeles, with painted motifs dealing with the history and construction of ornaments and patterns. This slightly ironic execution of postmodern process, where different historic styles are combined, brings forth a thesis that might be considered a prevailing proposition of Alexander Wolff's work: style is a mix between the subjective statement and appropriation, and always makes reference to a specific context.

In *Temporary Reference Library* the artist shows a selection of books from Simon Studer Art, an Art Consulting Company based in Geneva. These books, which are for Alexander Wolff linked to this exhibition as his artistic work, are now torn out from their original place in the library and accessible by the public, free to choose one and read it in the exhibition space.

Outside the exhibition space, the work *Tapisserie Freihafen*, hang on the Free Port's corridor, is a reference to the formal vocabulary of the minimal art but relating to a site specific context by tracing the architecture of the building back to its origins of construction.

An artist's book in edition of 50 with a text by Emilie Renard has been published for this exhibition.

Alexander Wolff, born 1976 in Osterburg (Germany), lives and works in Los Angeles and Berlin. His work has been exhibited in galleries and institutions in several countries of Europe, as well as in the US, as e.g. Galerie Ben Kaufmann, Berlin; Galerie Mezzanin, Vienna; Circuit, Lausanne, Westfaelischer Kunstverein Muenster; Susanne Vielmetter Gallery, Los Angeles; The Approach, London; MUMOK, Vienna; Art Basel 36 Statements. Since 2002 co-publisher of the Vienna based art magazines Chicago, Times, Plotter, ...Trixie.

Opening hours : Tuesday-Friday 10-12:30a.m / 14-18p.m, Monday and Saturday by appointment.



Exhibition view



Exhibition view, Untitled and Double frame



Exhibition view, *Untitled and Double Frame*



Exhibition view, *Tapisserie Freihafen*, 2011, frottage, oil painting on canvas, 420 x 260 cm



Untitled, 2011, acrylic and glued paper on fabric, 110 x 80 cm



Double Frame, 2011, acrylic on wood, 36 x 31 cm



Untitled, 2011, acrylic on canvas and cotton, 110 x 80 cm